

A NEW
ESSAY
ON THE
Venereal Disease,
AND
METHODS OF CURE.
Accounting for the
NATURE, CAUSE, and SYMPTOMS
OF THAT
MALADY.

By J. BECKET, M. D.

The FOURTH EDITION, with ADDITIONS.

L O N D O N:

Printed for the Author, and sold by J. WILLIAMS,
Bookseller, in Fleet-Street; and J. DIXWELL,
Printer and Stationer, in St. Martin's Lane, near
Charing Cross.



The General CONTENTS

IN this Discourse will be found, a Number of most valuable Quotations, that have (with great pains) been collected from Antient and Modern Authors ; some of which were written upwards of 300 Years ago. From those Antients, as well as from the most eminent Moderns, it is proved, (and its reasonableness clearly demonstrated) that the treating this Disorder agreeable to the Intentions of Nature, and to the Opinions of the greatest of Men, must be in a manner quite out of the common Road of Practice : together with Remarks on the present Methods of Cure, shewing the ill Consequence of strong Purging, Mercurial Preparations, Injections, Astringents, &c. &c. *With an Account of a new Medicine discovered by the Author*, its Comparative Excellence with other Remedies fully considered and explained.

Also some useful and highly necessary Reflections, on those vile, illiterate, and baneful People, who pretend to cure this Disease, with their ignorant, and infamous Practice, is clearly detected and exposed.

And further is added, some beneficial Inquiries into the Nature and Virtues of the published Medicines now most in Use, viz. KEYSER's, BELLOST's, HAWKS-BEE's, and LEAK's Pills, ROCK's and WALKER's Jesuits Drops, Montpelier, Peru Drops, &c. for the Cure of this Disease ; their Operations examined and fairly considered ; with several other Matters highly necessary to be known by the Public, for the Preservation of Health, respecting the taking published Medicines in general.

Lastly, Some Thoughts are offered, on the too frequent Imputations, respecting empirical Practice.

In short, the whole throws a Light on the Venereal Disease, quite different from the Maxims established by Custom, and from what is now the present Opinion. It is delivered in an easy and familiar Manner, being principally intended for the Perusal of Persons afflicted with this Disorder ; and also for such as have been ill cured of it ; which may easily be known by observing the Opinion of Dr. PETER SHAW, Physician to his Majesty, viz. “ That frequent flying Pains, Head-
“ aches, and other Symptoms, occasioned either by the
“ Mercury, or the Relicks of the Distemper, often
“ continue after a supposed Cure of the Infection.”

J. C. T O *Hubbs*

Mr. P O T T,

SENIOR PRINCIPAL SURGEON of

St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

S I R,

W H E N I reflect on the many Advantages I reap'd during the Time of my attending St. Bartholomew's Hospital; and the many Honours you daily gained, not only by proving yourself a most able Master in your Profession, but in your Manner of treating those Patients who were so happy as to be under your Care, (to your Glory will it ever be remembered) for at the same Time you was relieving their Afflictions by your well known Skill, you evidently sympathized with them in all their Pains and Troubles; each Word, each Look and Action, being so blended with good Nature, and conveying so true fellow-feeling for the Distresses of Mankind, that the Unfortunate almost forgot their Afflictions, Praises from their Mouths were continually heard when your Name was mentioned, and when favoured with your Presence, Smiles of love, comfort, and gratitude, were evidently seen on the Countenance, even though a Countenance distorted with the most agonizing Pains.

Surely this is the Character of a truly great and good Man; yet, Sir, give me leave to add, it is no more than Thousands
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and Tens of Thousands will affirm;——I say, when I reflect on such great Singularities, it is impossible for me to hesitate one Moment to whom I should dedicate this Essay; and if there should prove one Hint, Remark or Maxim, that meets with your Approbation, I shall think myself amply rewarded for my Pains; for as to pleasing the World, I confess I should just as soon hope for grand Events from Impossibilities. Without doubt the quick Sale of the first Edition, is a strong Proof of the welcome Reception it has met with from the Public, yet may I not presume that your kind Sanction in a great Measure contributed to it.——As an Author too, your great Merit has long been acknowledged, and those Works you have obliged the Public with, have by the best of Judges, been received with the greatest Respect. Your Treatise on Ruptures has done more Honour to our Profession, than any Work yet Extant of its Kind; as through the whole every Sentiment plainly appears to be founded on Reason, Experience, and sound Judgment; from such Qualifications the Afflicted may with the greatest Reason hope for Redress, even though long sunk into Despair, particularly when they recollect, that to those Qualifications, is joined an almost unequalled Humanity, or Brotherly-Love to Mankind.

I am,

S I R,

With the greatest Respect,

Your much obliged Friend,

York-Buildings.

And most obedient humble Servant,

J. B E C K E T.

C H A P. I.

Contains a brief Account of the Origin of the Venereal Disease.

C H A P. II.

Contains an Information of the Nature and Propagation of the Venereal Poison, with its Symptoms in the Lues Venerea.

C H A P. III.

Is on the Cause and Symptoms of a Virulent Gonorrhœa, or a fresh contracted Venereal Complaint.

C H A P. IV.

The general Methods of Cure considered, why rejected by the Author, and his reasons for proposing different Practice, are candidly offered for the Public's Approbation.

C H A P. V.

Contains an Account of the Effects of Mercury wherein the Sentiments of no less than fourteen Antient Authors of great Repute, and several Moderns, are quoted.

C H A P. VI.

Wherein the Effects of Injections are considered.

C H A P. VII.

Contains an Account of Diuretic Medicines, their Operation explained, by which their great Virtues in the Cure of Venereal Complaints are made easy to be accounted for by the Reader.

C H A P. VIII.

Contains particular Remarks on different Subjects, recommended to be carefully perused.

C H A P. IX.

Observations respecting the Discovery of new Medicines, and their being published, founded on Reason, with which the Reader will not be displeased.

Yours very truly
John D. Smith

Enclosed are the notes of the
meeting of the 1st of March 1861
at the residence of Mr. Smith

I have also enclosed the
report of the committee on
the subject of the proposed
amendment to the constitution

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
John D. Smith

and to the committee on the subject of
the proposed amendment to the constitution
of the State of New York

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
John D. Smith

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
John D. Smith

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
John D. Smith

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Your obedient servant,
John D. Smith

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
John D. Smith

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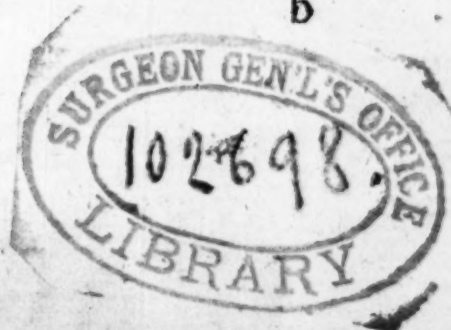
INTRODUCTION.

Intended to convey some matters necessary to be known to the Reader, before he peruses this Book.

1st. **I** AM not unacquainted that I must undergo Centure ; the World either has or will take the Liberty to criticise ; this gives me not the least Concern ; as by the following Discourse I hope to serve my Fellow-creatures : it shall therefore neither check me in my practice, nor even contract it into Limits. I also expect to be thought very singular for Opposing the Methods in general Use, and indeed acknowledge my Deviation, but at the same Time beg leave to observe, and in short hope, that to every impartial Reader I shall evidently prove, that the treating the Venereal Disease agreeably to the laws of Nature, and the

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Theory of the greatest of Men both Antient and Modern, must be by Methods quite out of the common Road of Practice.

2d. As this Work is in a great Measure chiefly intended for the Perusal of my Patients, and such as are, or have been afflicted with Venereal Infections, I have delivered the whole in as plain, easy and familiar a Manner, as possible; purposely avoiding the scientific Terms, &c. known only by the Faculty: I have also industriously avoided such Expressions as must hurt a modest Ear, (as far as the subject would allow) and yet have endeavoured to keep up to the full Sense and Meaning of the Discourse. I hope too it will be found that my Sentiments here advanced, are not mere Conjectures, but founded on Reason, Experience, and the Laws of Nature: and as I have always preferred Sincerity to Eloquence, so I should be more proud to be esteemed the Author of one useful Proof, or plain Demonstration, than all the fine-spun Hypotheses that compose the Works of the most eminent Authors. And I can justly say with Dr. *Lobb*, that my Design in Printing this Book is not to reflect on any Gentleman
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of the Faculty : there are many Physicians and Surgeons in the British Nation, and in this Town in particular, deservedly celebrated for their great Knowledge in their Professions : therefore let it be understood, when I say the Practice in Use, I mean that in general Use, consequently those that are of different Sentiments from myself, cannot have the least Reason to imagine I have a personal Aim at them, or intend to lessen their Reputation. No, far be it from me; but if the Principles and Rules, &c. I have recommended to the World, should bring any mistaken and hurtful Methods of Practice into discredit, I ought not to be sorry, but rather to rejoice, because the Event will be happy for Mankind ; for none certainly can justly suffer in their Honour, for rejecting Customs in Medical Practice, when they have been proved not to correspond with the true Curative Indications. And I must add, that if by submitting myself to the Censure of others, I should have the good Fortune to excite some more masterly Pen to improve the Art of Curing this Disease, it will much augment my Pleasure and Satisfaction, as I shall thereby be, in a great Measure, instru-

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mental in conveying a greater good to my Fellow-creatures, which will always redound to an Author's own Emollument.

3d. Joining my Sentiments to those of a favourite Author, I proceed, that to be at a Certainty, how to cure a Disease that fills us with the most painful *Sensations*, requires our utmost *Diligence* and *Care*. But then no Man can be so, that is not acquainted with the *Animal Oeconomy*, and the Operation of a Medicine upon the *Fluids*; and altho' I am one of the least amongst many, that are capable of an Undertaking of this Nature, (for I do not hereby pretend to be wiser than the rest of my Brethren;) yet I hope they will pardon me, if by great Application and Care, assisted by the singular Advantage of a very extensive Practice, I should be able to inform them better on a subject, of which we have at present but a confused Idea: and if they will please to to give themselves leisure to read through, and consider *every Part*, before they censure *any*, I hope they will not think their Time ill spent, if they find it pleasant, entertaining, and tending to the Assistance of
Man-

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Mankind : although I know it is *impossible* to write, so as to please every Person ; yet to the Judicious and Unprejudiced, I flatter myself, it may be found acceptable.

In the Course of this Essay, I have inserted a Number of Quotations that are Extracted from Authors of undoubted Credit, which may have much greater Weight with the Reader, than any Thing I could singly offer in Support of the method here proposed. And as, agreeably to the Observation made by a valuable Author, I do not think it any lessening either to me or the Book ; therefore in order to anticipate any malicious Reflections, I frankly own, that divers Things herein contained, are Hints and Gleanings from other Authors ; and I think every Man does the same, that writes to any good Purpose ; altho' all are not so ingenuous to own it as I do. But I hope I may truly say, that my Assistance does not come from the Field of the Sluggard, or Fool ; not from uncultivated Ground, or barren Soil, but from Authors of good Authority, the Sentiments of whom I have gathered together with no little Pains. And
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if any living Author takes it ill, that I have sucked Honey from any Flower of his, I hope I have therein done him no Injury, and indeed, have probably only done by him what he has done by many others.

Certain I am, no Man is without Errors, and I wish I knew all mine; to excuse many of which, I am under the disagreeable Necessity to beg great Lenity from the Reader, more particularly, when I inform him, this Work though the 2d. Edition, is still very imperfect, but when I say imperfect, I would not be understood to mean that the Discourse itself is hurt, or that the full meaning of either the Arguments respecting the Disease or the Method of Cure, is in the least cramped or clouded; no, the full force of the Book is clear and easy to be comprehended; therefore the Reader is not at all perplexed on that account. I therefore thought it much more Beneficial to the Public, to devote what little Time I have to spare, in making some Additions, by going on with further Examinations of several published Medicines, &c. than to the making those nice Corrections which could
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tend to no good to the Public, but serve only to please conceited Critics. This Essay consists of Observations, which have been made from Time to Time in my Extensive Practice in the Cure of the Venereal Disease. These were taken as kind of Minutes, on which I made such Remarks as I found necessary; and to these are added, those Sentiments from such great Men as favoured the Method I have found absolutely necessary to establish. Now to collect, dispose, and place in a regular Order the above Manuscripts, required some Time and Attention. But in Opposition to this, an ill State of Health, and my whole Time nearly ingrossed in the Attendance on my Practice, has prevented the Discourse being dressed in that necessary Apparel; therefore, is obliged to appear in the World, loaded with the Expressions of Inaccuracy, Tautology, Irregularity, &c. &c. Indeed it may be asked, why some intimate Friend was not consulted, whose Time would have admitted him to have prevented those Circumstances? To which I answer, my Reason was this, that at the same Time they were removing the Exceptions, I was apprehensive, the real Sense and Meaning of the Work, would

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would in some Measure suffer an Alteration, or at least be so expressed, as might perplex the Reader which way to determine. Therefore I was fully of the Opinion, that it was better to publish it to the World, even under those Disadvantages, than risque any kind of Alteration, that might embarrass that Mode of Practice, which I here affirm to be the only safe and effectual One, that ever was, or can be made Use of, except the Disease should change its Nature, which we have little Reason to suppose that it will.

Now as the Second Edition (I foresee) is to go through a severe Penance, whatever the good Critics, or the capricious Cavillers are pleased to say, I have only to beg of them, that the whole Load may rest on myself, (well knowing, the Weight can be of no Consequence to me.) This I mention to prevent any Insinuation, that those of the Faculty with whom I am particularly intimate, were concerned in this Publication; it is true those of the greatest Eminence have seen the Manuscripts, and were pleased to approve of the Publication. But I here
solemnly

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solemnly affirm, that no Person has been concerned either directly, or indirectly, by adding or diminishing any Sentiment or Expression through any Part of this Essay. Among a Number of Objections to this Work, the following probably may be One, that I have exposed the Profession too much, by which it is made too cheap. But they will do right to consider, that though such Persons as are, or have been infected, may by reading this Book, be a Judge whether they are perfectly sound or not, yet the Cure ever remains in the Hands of the Faculty; for as to the Intruder and the Illiterate, that has no Education, nor any Notion of the Profession until he reads this, it will be of no more Benefit to him, than if it was wrote in Hebrew.

I flatter myself this Treatise will be found acceptable, to such of my Brethren of the Faculty as practice in the Country, many of whom are totally unacquainted with the particular Nature of the Venereal Poison; and perhaps the Ease and Plainness of the Style, may render it still more useful, as all ingenious Men are not so happy as to have

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had an Academical Education, and yet may however, have Learning enough to qualify themselves for some one Branch of Physic. These too often Practice by Custom and Receipts, without rightly understanding why, and the Manner how Medicines ought to operate, to expell this Disorder, and the more so, as they have but little Practice in the Curing of it.

If Objections should offer, respecting my not making known the Medicine I have so much extolled ; by which I must incur the Name of a Nostrum Monger, and a dealer in Secrets, or otherwise be asked why I do not make known so harmless, yet effectual a Remedy: to this I reply, that as persons who understand the human Constitution, and the Nature of its Disorders, with a competent Knowledge of the Materia-Medica, may, from a due Consideration of the Effects, (when assisted with the Experience of Practice) find out such Remedies, and indeed this will hold good with all other Discoveries in Medicine ; so where those Acquisitions are wanting, the Knowledge of all the particular Preparations of Medicine cannot supply the Defect,

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Defect, or qualify a Person for the Cure of any particular Disease: therefore every judicious Person must think it more for the Public good, that these kinds of Remedies should be confined to the Knowledge of those who have sagacity to find them out, from the Hints given of their Designs, and Manner of operation; and who know how to make a proper use of the Remedies thus discovered.

On the whole, it may possibly be allowed, I have taken much pains to trace out the Nature and Cause of that Distemper I have now treated of; it was a Study I early in Life proposed, and always had a determined Resolution, to arrive to an accomplished Method of curing it. I recollect an Observation made by the late ingenious Mr. *Nourse*, in the Year 1756, being then Senior Surgeon of *Bartholomew's* Hospital, and having been visiting one of the Wards appropriated for the Cure of Venereal Patients, that if the Gentlemen of the Faculty would take more Pains in the Cure of those Venereal Patients, that come under their Care, he was fully persuaded the Hospitals

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pitals could not be crowded with such miserable Objects, nor would the Town swarm with such Numbers of illiterate Fellows who vilely pretend to cure that Disease. This Gentleman was certainly right in his Sentiments; the Consequence of ill Cures is scarce credible; for where it happens so in some particular Constitutions, it in Time becomes next to an Impossibility ever to irradicate that cursed Poison.

Some time ago, as I was going up *Ludgate-Hill*, I saw a Man, whom I immediately remembered being in the Hospital, at the Time of Mr. *Nourse's* talking of this Disorder, as mentioned; this Man being then a Patient, and in the most shocking Situation. I should not have recollected him, but that the Circumstance of his having but one Leg, and one Arm, struck my Eye immediately, and his Face being much distorted with the Distemper, made me the more certain he was the same Person; and therefore directly called to my Servant to order the Coachman to stop, and got out of my Chariot, to question the Man respecting the Disorder: I well remember his
being

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being salivated several Times, and that he was discharged out of the House, pretty well ; but he informed me it soon returned, and that he had been under almost every eminent Practitioner in Town and Country, and had since been salivated six or seven Times, but still the Symptoms after a little Time returned : I offered to order him some Medicines, but he told me he was determined to take no more, as he found it would kill him, therefore the sooner he was dead, the better. He was now so infected, that several of his Bones were quite rotten ; and he stunk so, that it was with Difficulty you could stand near him.

This proves the dreadful Consequence of ill Cures ; that Man having been cured (as he supposed) five Years before he applied to the Hospital, and always declared he had caught no new Infection, and indeed, there were Reasons sufficient to prove he could not.

The Contents of the following are serious, and rational Reflections.

1st. I

INTRODUCTION.

1st. I have been informed the Enemies to the first Edition of this Essay have publicly said it was entirely owing to the plausible Account (as they were pleased to term it) given of my Medicines in that Book that I am indebted for the Reception they have met with in general, over all other Remedies published for the same Disorders. But I shall take the Liberty to tell these People, that the Medicines had established their own Credit upon the Basis of Truth and Certainty, long before the Essay was seen, or even wrote; nor should I ever have given myself the trouble of writing it, or risking my Time, and the necessary Expence attending a Publication, had it not been for the repeated Instances in thousands of Cases of its most remarkable Success. This was communicated to me almost every Day from one Part or the other. I then, and not before, determined on a Publication of this Nature. The same Enemies have also used their Endeavours to prejudice People against my Medicines, as if they were highly dangerous to the Constitution; if those who do this, have good Grounds for what they say, they
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are to be commended for warning their Friends against them. But if not, Honour, Honesty and common Humanity ought to restrain them from endeavouring to run down Medicines that may, (because they have been) be highly serviceable to Mankind. But Oppositions to new Things or new Practices, as I have often said, will assuredly take place ; nor are they always without their use in causing them to be thoroughly examined before they are generally received ; the test of this Examination it is well known my Medicines have gone through, amidst the most envious and malicious Representations. No Medicine perhaps that was ever introduced into Physick, met with stronger and longer continued Opposition, than the Peruvian Bark.

No Practice was ever more vehemently contested, than that of Inoculation ; and yet both the one and the other have now triumphed over all their Opposers.

And as my Medicines have been proved by the Public, and are allowed by the Candid and Judicious of the Faculty of Physic,

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Physic, to be excellent and unparallelled, so I have all the reason that can possibly be had or expected, to believe that their use will become more and more frequent as they become more known, and thereby continually greater services be received by Mankind. This I am so well convinced of, that I would desire to be remembered after Death, for nothing more, than the introducing these Medicines into Practice.

2d. The good Reception the first Edition of this Work has met with, I may observe, is somewhat remarkable, as upwards of a Thousand have been sold in a little more than a Year (the greatest Demand that has been known for a Discourse on this Subject for a Century past) for that was the Number printed for the first Edition, I not following the Example of some Authors on the same Subject, who, as I have been told, printed only five Hundred, of which five Editions were made, by having new Title Pages, and an Addition of a Dedication, &c. I say the good Reception the first Edition of this Work has met with, from the best Judges,
and

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and the Public, encourages me to publish another, with Additions, &c.

Some Persons who where pleased to allow the Performance to be rational, and they believed useful, have repeatedly insinuated it was none of my writing: on which account, may not these Questions be asked; whether it be reasonable to suppose, that any Person of Character would have their Sentiments and Instructions published under my Name, who by this Insinuation am not able to produce any thing of my own, and whether any inferior Practitioner could be the Author of a Work that they thus commend. Therefore on this plain Reasoning it must appear I am in on great danger of losing the Character of being its Author.—Now methinks I hear the Clamour of Malicious Tongues, crying out, Author indeed! Author of what? a jumble of Lies! or as some Men were pleas'd to say, a Forger of Lies, a Physician of no Value. This it seems was the Effect of Disappointment; but for my part I have no notion of sacrificing Gold to obtain a good natured Word from Mercenary Writers, whose Sentiments

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timents (it is now generally known) are biased by Circumstances: on the contrary, I verily believe their Abuses raised the curiosity of many People to purchase the Book to read the strange Performance so highly condemned; and if it falls into the Hands of impartial Judges, as the Public are in general, I am in no fear of Censure. Therefore the Gentlemen may go on with their polite Language, without being interrupted by me as long as they think I deserve Chastisement for my neglect in not complying with what many Authors do; 'tis true I have no Excuse to make for myself, only that I ever detested purchased Honors; one thing I would have them observe for the future, that all good Men prefer reasoning to railing.

To end this Introduction, lest I tire the Reader's Patience, I shall only add, that as no Man is without his Enemies, so I suppose I have some. But my Consolation is, that their Malice is impotent, and wholly without a Cause; therefore, if by unparallelled Falshoods they strive to murder my good Name in the Dark, yet of these I ask no Quarter, nor shall I take any notice
of

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of their malicious Reproaches ; for I should esteem their Applause a Scandal and Slur to my Understanding, as I devote this Book wholly to Men of Integrity, Learning, Candour, and Humanity. What I have just said, and the following, with which the Introduction ends, are written in Conjunction with the Sentiments and Mode of two eminent physical Writers.

I now publicly declare, I am very indifferent as to what Cavils are made against this useful Essay, it not being wrote with a View of Interest respecting the Sale, therefore its Enemies will be greatly disappointed if they endeavour to depreciate it on that Account; but if through worse Motives, they will not make me angry, as I have the Happiness to be out of the Reach of such kind of Envy, consequently they will gain no more Victory, than if they were fighting with the Air, or their own Shadows ;

*For in vain will flow the Venom from the most
poisonous Quill.*

As

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As for low Censures,

*Erit loquacis pulchra Protervia
Vindieta, risisse & sereno
Magnanimum tacuisse Vultu.*

I am,

The Public's much obliged humble Servant,

J. BECKET.

YORK-BUILDINGS.

CHAP. I.

Of the Origin of the VENEREAL DISEASE.

THE great *Boerhaave* opens his Lectures on the *Venereal* Disease, with the following words, “ It is a Disorder wholly singular in its Nature, and perhaps bears no Resemblance to any other. It is, alas! too common : it is the Fire of Death ; more to be feared, and by far more dreadful than Death itself.” The Variety of Opinions to be found in Authors who have treated of this Disease, apparently shews that they had discovered no certain Guide to direct them to an incontestible Period of its Origin ; they in deed are pretty general in the Opinion that it was imported from *America* by *Christopher Columbus*, in the Year 1493. Several Authors have appeared in Defence of a greater Antiquity of the Venereal Disease ; the last of whom was *Mr. William Becket* of *London*, Surgeon,

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in three Dissertations published in the 30th and 31st Volumes of the *Philosophical Transactions*, in which he has, with great Diligence, got together whatever could be collected from the *English* Antiquities, both in Print and Manuscript, that favoured his Opinion. In the Dissertation first printed in the 30th Volume of *Philosophical Transactions*, No. 357, *Anno* 1718, he labours to prove, that a Venereal Gonorrhæa was known in *England* some Ages before the Year 1493, under the Names of *Ardor*, *Arfura*, *Incendium*, &c. in *English*, *Brenning* or *Burning*; whereof indeed frequent mention is made by *English* Historians; and in Confirmation of this Opinion, he produces several Authorities, whereof some are earlier, and others later than the Year 1494; from which he concludes, that this Disease was communicated from infected Women to Men, in the most antient Times. However, be this as it will, it is not worth ingrossing the Reader's Time about, as it is not a Matter of any great Importance to know from what Part of the Globe it had its Birth, or at what exact

Time

Time to fix its Origin. It is certainly enough to know the Nature, Cause and Symptoms (which every Physician and Surgeon ought to be thoroughly acquainted with) the Knowledge of which only can point out a rational Method of cure.

C H A P. II.

Of the Nature of Venereal Infections.

AN antient Author in the Year 1566, gives the following short description of the Disease: " Upon the first Appearance of this Malady in *Europe*, the latent Poison, before it broke out in other Symptoms, betrayed itself in an uncommon Indolence, spontaneous Lassitude, Sense of Weight in the Limbs, an almost continual Inclination to Sleep, wasting of the Habit, Loss of Vigour, Perturbation of the Mind, Melancholy, and a timorous Disposition, Paleness of the Face, Blackness under the Eyes, Alteration of the whole Visage, Heat in the Hands and Feet, with a great

many Symptoms more. To these, in most Patients, succeeded a Caries of the Pudenda, producing small corrosive Ulcers of a red Colour, which after disappearing returned again, and sometimes in twice their former Number ; the Skin became deformed with rough, unequal Crusts, and nasty Pustules, the Eruption sometimes wearing the Shape of a Satyriasis, sometimes of the Elephantiasis, or Lichen, or Teraminthus, or Pfora. But before this, there used to spring up a Crop of very small Pustules, which grew by Degrees, till at last they reached the Size of a Nut. These Pustules shewed themselves capable of a great Variety, for some werelarger, others smaller, some dryer, others more moist. Sometimes their Colour was livid and cineritious, pale, or of a faint red ; after they broke, they incessantly threw out prodigious Quantities of a sordid foetid Liquor, resembling a Mucilage ; and to the Pustules succeeded Ulcers of the phagædenick Kind, which devoured the fleshy Parts to the very Bones ; nor could the hard Consistence of the Bones themselves defend them

them from Corruption and Erosion. The acrid Humours falling upon the superior Parts, sometimes perforated the Tongue, sometimes exulcerated the Palate and Fauces, and at other Times destroyed the Uvula and Tonfillæ. Some had their Lips, others their Noses, Ears, or Eyes eroded; and a great many were intirely deprived of their virile Parts. In some, gummatous Humours pushed out, resembling the Atheroma, or those Concretions formed by the Gums of Trees; these would swell to the Size of an Acorn, Egg, or Apple; and when opened, poured out a whitish Mucor, which however was not extremely fœtid. The Joints were affected with Tophi, the Arms particularly, and Knees, with hard callous Tumours, while the Scapulæ, Sternum, and Tibiæ were tormented with violent Pains; in some the Pains were continual, in others they intermitted, but in both Cases they were most acute in the Night. Sometimes the Pains were complicated with Pustules, Ulcers and Tumours, sometimes unattended with any of these. The Patient lost his Appetite and Rest;

Rest ; his broken Slumbers were haunted with frightful Dreams ; he burnt with an almost continual Heat, and was tormented with an aching Head. Besides, he suffered the last Violence of every Passion that most disturbs the Mind. In the mean Time, what he spit was thick and frothy, his Sweats were foetid, his Stools dry, with some Mixture of Mucor, and his Urine reddish, oily and thick, with an unequal, turbid, broken Sediment."

But when this Disease had raged in *Europe* for about 30 Years in this shocking and deplorable Manner, it began somewhat to change its Shape, either as to its Train of Symptoms, or the Order of their Succession. All which we learn from the Writers of that Age. In this Manner did the Disease proceed, till (on the first Infection) the Pustules for the most Part were gone, the hard Tumours grew less frequent, and the Pains more mild ; besides, the first Symptoms became Buboes, Ulcers, Warts, and a Gonorrhæa, &c.

Dr.

Dr. *Boerhaave's* Sentiments relative thereto are as follows.

“ 1st. The first Property of this Disease is, that the Infection is so easily propagated, that, in spite of all Precautions, the whole Constitution may be subdued by it; nevertheless, we are totally ignorant of the essential Qualities of this Disorder; we only know that it discovers itself by certain Phenomena, which being collected, I shall present to you; so far at least as may distinguish it from any other.”

“ 2d. When a Man is infected, there is no Part of his Body, however sound, that can be said to be secure; nay, the whole may be contaminated; and such is its Power, that it will render the whole Body weak and feeble in a Manner almost incredible to those who have never experienced it.—The momentary Contact of warm Bodies is sufficient for its Propagation.—As a small Spark is capable of kindling a mighty Flame.”

3d.

“ 3^d. The true Contagion will destroy the most pure and healthy Body it affects. I have seen a comely young Gentleman, in whom a little Ulcer so propagated itself, that not even one Part of the Body was left free.”

“ 4th. It hath therefore the Property of perverting all the good Humours. I have seen a young Man who had only a little Ulcer in his Nostrils, which could not be cured by any of the Physicians either in *England, Germany, or France*, where he had travelled, yet at that Time was otherwise sound and clean; nevertheless his whole Face, Eyes, Ears, &c. were afterwards affected.”

“ 5th. From hence, if I may so speak there is in this Contagion, an innate Power of Propagation, on which Account many suppose it to be of the Animal Kind, and produced from a Congeries of Animalcula, which being received into the Body as a proper Nidus, there propagate themselves with infinite Velocity. This Opinion they think

think the more probable, because it may be cured by Mercury, an anthelmintic Remedy. I never saw any thing like this, notwithstanding I am sensible Mercury has that Property; if venereal Ulcers on the Skin are not well cured, they affect the whole Body, and if the Sanies is applied to any Part of a sound Person, he will be infected thereby—This Infection dissolves the solid Parts, the Viscera, Cartilages and Bones, even those of the Thigh and Cranium, reducing them to a *Caput mortuum*, or friable Substance; a Quality which can be attributed to no disorder besides; nay the very Corruption it produces becomes the Medium of its further Propagation.”

“ 6th. The Matter is so very fine and volatile, that if it be applied outwardly to the Surface of the Skin, it will penetrate thro’ it to the part it covers. The whole Body is defended by the solid resistable Cutis, as with a Coat of Mail; nevertheless, the warm venereal Poison, applied to this Tegument whilst in a State of Warmth, will insinuate itself into its Substance, dissolve its Continuity, and melt it down to a venereal

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nereal Matter. It is therefore evident, that these thin, volatile and infectious Particles, penetrate the Skin, destroy its Texture, and produce Ulcers on its Surface."

" 7th. But let no one think that what is visible in this Disease is that very identical Poison, since it is only the Effects thereof thrown out on the Surface of the Skin. For as the thin, volatile, infectious Particles at first insinuate themselves into this tunic, so from thence they are diffused throughout the Body; which evidently appears from the following Case.---Two Friends being at the *Hague*, happened to lie in the same Bed, the one clean, the other infected by the Lues; he that was sound was soon alarmed by some malignant Ulcers on that Side which lay next to his Bed-fellow; knowing himself to be free from that Distemper, he went to a Physician, who after Enquiry, informed him, that he was infected by the close Contact with a diseased Body."

Altho' I have the greatest Respect for our learned Author, and a due sense of his superior

rior Judgment in this Disease above all other Writers, yet I beg Leave to observe, that though indeed I have known a few Instances of some remarkable Effects which have happened from a Contact of Bodies, as related above ; nevertheless, this proves no more than the Possibility of it: For Experience daily shews those who have a Number of venereal Patients under their Care, that such Cases very seldom happen ; on the contrary, it is well known that Persons frequently lying in Bed with the Infected are not in the least hurt : Nor indeed can the Infection be so communicated, but in the most confirmed and deplorable Cases, where the Skin is filled with venereal Eruptions, and the Person so infected perspiring very freely ; and even then it is chiefly confined to Children and tender Bodies.

Dr. Astruc, well known for his Publications on the Venereal Disease, speaking of its Nature, says—" It is a Kind of Distemper which cannot be spontaneously bred in our Climate by any error in Diet, or other depraved State of the Non-naturals; but is produced and perpetuated here by a

Sort of morbid Fuel originally brought from Abroad, which is of a lasting Nature ; or rather is constantly renewed.'

" 2d. That this morbid Fuel, or Seeds of the Distemper which is called the venereal Poison, though it cannot by any Means be generated in our Climate, yet if it be conveyed into the Blood, though in the smallest and most indiscernible Particles, it does there easily increase, multiply, and gather Strength."

" 3d. On the other Hand, that this Poison shall sometimes lie lurking in the Blood for several Years, without any apparent Symptoms ; and yet that it shall be preserved there so entire, as to be capable of exerting itself when Occasion offers, and frequently with so much Violence as to produce the most fatal Effects : Which is a Circumstance that some of our Ancestors have discovered in the Poison flowing from the Bite of a mad Dog ; but of more Certainty found to be true of the venereal Poison from abundance of Instances." Again he says ;

" The

“ The venereal Disorder in *Europe* is solely propagated by Contagion ; there are therefore conveyed from the Diseased into the Sound, certain Seeds of morbid Matter, which being introduced into a sound Body, in the smallest Quantity and by indiscernible Ways, and by Degrees increasing in Bulk, Form, and Efficacy, sooner or later, are able to infect and corrupt the whole Mass of Humours ; and these Seeds of the Disease are usually, and not improperly named, the Venereal Ferment, Venom, or Poison.”

This Method of Propagation is not peculiar to the Venereal Disease, but common to all other contagious Distempers. So the Small-Pox may be communicated by taking a small Portion of corrupted Matter out of the Pustules, and instilling it into an Incision made in the Skin. The Plague, by Matter flowing out of the Buboës, and dropt into a Wound made in any Animal. The Itch, or Tetters, by the Ichor discharged from a diseased Skin and adhering to a sound one. An Hydrophobia, by the Admission of the Saliva of a mad Dog into the
Part

Part that is bitten. The Indisposition occasioned by the Tarantula, by the Humours which that Spider conveys by its Bite into the Skin; as by so many Ferments peculiar to each Disease. But as in different Ferments there is a different Nature, whereby they are enabled to bring on the several Diseases they occasion, so must the venereal Venom have its peculiar Disposition; which is by so much the more noxious, as the Disease it produces is more grievous than others, and which therefore it the more concerns us to be acquainted with, that we may thereby apply a more certain Remedy to the Disorder which it causes.

C H A P. III.

Of the Cause and Symptoms of the Venereal Disease.

WHEN the Venereal *Virus* is thoroughly settled in the Parts it fixes on, the pungent acrid Salts insinuate themselves into the little Ducts of the nervous Papilla of the Urethra; but the Irritation of the Parts, the Fluxion of the Hu-

Humours, and the Corrosiveness of the Virus, melt down and shake off the soft mucus Liquid that defends the Urethra from the Sharpness of the flowing Urine, or the Sensation of fabulous Particles in their Passage. Thus the venereal Salts stimulating the nervous Fibres of the Urethra, produce Fluxion and Pain, which dispose the viscid Humour that defends the Passage to be abraded and washed away, leaving the uncovered Parts susceptible of the Sharpness, which accounts for the Heat, Smarting in making water, &c. &c. which is generally experienced in this Disease. From hence it appears, that whatever is capable of promoting the Secretions of the urethral Glands, will the soonest and most effectually contribute to the Relief of this Complaint ; the virulent Salts, by these Means, being disengaged from the Parts they adhered to, are dissolved and carried off by the Urine ; and as they were the immediate Cause of the Heat and Pain excited by that Fluid, upon their Removal these Effects follow : Therefore Diuretics must be the most proper to answer this Intention ; Medicines whose Power act intirely on the urinary Pass

Passage. The Sentiments of the best Authors agree, not only with regard to the Clap as a Disease, but with respect to the Running, considered as a critical Discharge; for Diseases are those Forces and Helps which Nature raises in our Constitutions to expel and drive out of our Bodies whatever would be offensive and troublesome. By this we see when any thing inherent in the Constitution is troublesome to the Functions of the Body, the Solids and Fluids act in Concert to shake it off; and the Efforts made on these Occasions are the immediate Cause of all Diseases. Thus the venereal Poison fixing on the Ducts of the urethral Glands, is the immediate Cause of that Disorder called a Gonorrhæa, or Clap; the stimulating, corrosive Salts of which Poison, galling and fretting those and the nervous Parts, excite Heat of Urine and a Chordee, the almost inseparable Symptoms of this Disease. But Nature, ever intent in removing from her the Cause of Pain and Disturbance, sends a Flux of Humours to those Parts to disengage them from the Acrimony of the Virus, and wash it away, and drain it off through the Urethra; and there-

therefore the Running produced from this Flux of Humours must be looked on as a critical Discharge.

Having accounted for the operation of the Venereal Poison, the Production of the Running, and that it is a critical Discharge, it remains now to prove that the Virus is carried off by the Running. We have been informed that the cause of that Running is owing to a Fluxion of Humours, excited by the Irritation and Stimulus of the pocky Poison; this Glut of Juices relaxing the excretory Ducts of the urethral Glands, gives thence a free Passage to the Virus, Part of which they dissolve from Time to Time, and carry off through the Urethra; and this continues so long, till the whole Poison is either washed away, or a Stop put to the Discharge by some Accident. The Contagion going off in this Manner, will be evident to every Person who makes use of my Method of Cure, which acts chiefly in scowering and cleansing the urinary Passages, and expelling the Poison effectually by this Means; while all other Contrivances I ever yet heard of, conduce

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either to dry up, repel, or drive the pocky Matter into the Blood.

The Venereal Infection being communicable from one Sex to the other, is a Demonstration that the Medium which conveys the Poison, serves as a Vehicle to discharge it; and *Boerhaave* looked upon the Running as a Security against the worst of Symptoms; which it could not be, if it did not drain off the venereal Taint.

The great *Boerhaave*'s own words will set this Opinion in a clear Light. He says, speaking of the pocky Virus, 1st. "It is a stimulating Virulence which may infect the whole
 " Body. 2d. Nevertheless, all that is discharged in a Gonorrhæa is not virulent, but
 " as it were the Tears of Nature, to dilute
 " and wash away the malignant Matter; now
 " the whole Cure consists always and only
 " in the Imitation of Nature, by fitting those
 " Passages for a more ready Expurgation; for
 " this Complaint being a true Catarrh, there
 " is no Necessity to disturb the whole Body
 " by the Exhibition of I know not what Mercurials ;

“ curials ; and I must confess, that I have
 “ often reflected with Detestation on the in-
 “ direct Practice of Surgeons who thus trou-
 “ ble Nature, whilst all that is needful is the
 “ Expulsion of the infecting Matter from the
 “ Part affected. We may see that the first
 “ Writers (for Instance, the great *Fallopious*)
 “ have openly said, if you would rightly
 “ treat a Gonorrhæa, give place to Nature ; for
 “ when it flows freely there is no Danger ;
 “ the whole Art consists in expurging the in-
 “ fected Matter, by procuring it a free Pas-
 “ sage through the dilated Vessels. Let us
 “ therefore follow Nature as did the ancient
 “ Physicians, who, when they saw venereal
 “ Ulcers break out on the Body, assisted Na-
 “ ture by prescribing Sudorifics ; which ne-
 “ vertheless are of no Use in a Gonorrhæa.
 “ Our Indication then is the Expurgation of
 “ this Disorder by the Flux ; which is not
 “ all Virus, but the Vehicle through which
 “ it is carried off ; this should be done in the
 “ easiest Manner possible. If a Man discharge
 “ an Ounce of this Matter, not a thousandth
 “ Part of this is wholly Poison ; a very small
 “ Quantity of the Virus generally adheres to
 “ it, and is thereby carried out of the Body.

“ But how is this Expurgation to be pro-
 “ moted? 1st. Not by impelling the Poison
 “ to any other part of the Body ; 2d. Nor
 “ ought we to endeavour to promote a
 “ greater Flux of Matter for its Elpulsion.
 “ 3d. Nor must we seek any other Way
 “ for its Discharge. 4th. Our Business is
 “ to procure a sufficient Quantity of thick
 “ Matter, for then the Cure is easy. 5th.
 “ Nor are we to admit a thought of di-
 “ minishing it, till that is clearly indicated
 “ by the Appearances, 6th. It ought to
 “ flow freely, and not return again to the
 “ Place from whence it issued ; to this we
 “ should be very attentive, lest it should
 “ recede through the Membrane of the
 “ Urethra into the Cellular Substance. Fur-
 “ ther, we should be careful lest the Matter
 “ be retained. When we are sound, scarce
 “ ten Drops a Day is secreted ; but when
 “ the *Lacunæ* are excited by a virulent Sti-
 “ mulus, two Ounces may be discharged
 “ in a Day. If this Matter is retained, it
 “ becomes acrid, the Infection multiplied,
 “ and the Discharge increased. It must
 “ therefore be discharged ; in this the whole
 “ Cure consists.--Is any Physician capable
 “ of attracting this Virulence from the
Emis-

“ *Emissaries* of the *Lacunæ*, without this
 “ Matter furnished by Nature ; it is cer-
 “ tainly not to be accomplished by any In-
 “ jection yet known ; for thereby, it is ra-
 “ ther repelled ; Nature alone can effect it
 “ by affording a competent Quantity of
 “ Matter which proceeding from within,
 “ dilutes and washes away the poisonous
 “ Stimulus.

“ 1st. We ought to be apprised how
 “ very small the Quantity of this subtle
 “ Poison is, that so strongly contaminates
 “ when first received, and that produces
 “ such bad Effects ; for the smallest Parti-
 “ cle, or Atom, insinuating itself into the
 “ Urethra, generates this Disease.

“ 2d. We should also consider what is
 “ the mucous Matter generated by the
 “ glandular Fabric of the *Lacunæ*. That it
 “ is a Vehicle, afforded by Nature for the
 “ Discharge of this adhæfive Poison ; for as
 “ soon as this is effected, it returns to its
 “ natural State and Quantity ; nor can a
 “ Gonorrhæa be cured till that is com-
 “ pleted. If stopped by Astringents, the
 “ Matter is retained, the Pænis feels heavy
 “ and

“ and uneasy, Ulcers arise and the Disorder
 “ is increased. Whatever, therefore, is pro-
 “ posed from Exsiccation, is of no valuable
 “ Consequence ; for if the least Particle of
 “ the Disease is retained, Matter will still
 “ continue to flow ; as I have learned from
 “ many Experiments.

“ 3d. We are also to consider, that by
 “ how much more the Virulence abounds
 “ above the Vehicle ; by so much more
 “ severe every Symptom will appear both
 “ in the Patient and in the ejected Matter ;
 “ for when the Discharge is very yellow,
 “ green or bloody, the Virulence is great ;
 “ but when it is white (though in large
 “ Quantity) without Pain, itching, or Heat
 “ of Urine, the Malignancy is less, and
 “ sooner cured. It is worthy our Obser-
 “ vation, that Men who have been fre-
 “ quently diseased, are cured with greater
 “ Difficulty ; for in them this Discharge
 “ hardly ever ceases, although it is not yel-
 “ low, because the dilated Orifices of the
 “ *Lacunæ* are affected by a kind of habitual
 “ paralytical Diathesis, by which a Cure
 “ becomes very Obstinate.”

CHAP.

C H A P. IV.

The Common Methods of Cure considered.

IN speaking of the Methods of Cure in common Use, I shall first mention that of *Bleeding*, which by some Practitioners is thought to abate the Inflammation, &c. This I boldly affirm to be a pernicious Method, being an Evacuation directly opposite to the Intentions of Nature, and if often repeated, is the most likely Means to pox the Patient that can be thought of, particularly if assisted with strong mercurial Purges.

The celebrated *Handley's* Words will convey my Opinion to the Reader ; “ As to *Bleeding* in this Distemper, although once allowed of by some Physicians, I hope I may have the liberty of other Authors, to dissent from a Custom which I do not think good, without incurring the Censure of Heterodoxy in Practice. It is not always running with the Crowd that indicates a Man's being in the right, nor his being alone in
any

any Hypothesis, that proves him in the wrong."

The famous *Blagny*, Surgeon in ordinary to the *French* King, in his Observations on this Disease, says, Sect. II. Chap. II. "Some Practitioners, whose Method we must by no means follow, ever begin the Cure with *bleeding* in the *Arm*, by which Means the venereal Matter will be attracted or driven more inwardly into the Body, and therefore you must by consequence suspect it as dangerous. Others *bleed* boldly in the *Foot*, which has also the same Effect, or precipitates the Matter by Defluction into the Testicles; for which reasons, you ought to abstain from *bleeding* in either Part, &c.

Dr. *Cockburn* has these Words on *bleeding*: "The Error in *bleeding* to abate the Inflammation has been very unhappy; for that Practice has not only failed the Physicians, but it has sometimes brought in the Pox, as some, of themselves, have confessed. More of these Mistakes are often hid from them, and more luckily from their Patients." Again he says,

"Besides,

“ Besides, some Physicians have found that the Pox has often ensued after *bleeding*. The Reason of this Observation may be made appear from the Doctrine of Revulsion by *bleeding*, anciently acknowledged, and excellently well accounted for by the great Doctrine of the Circulation of the Blood.’

Joannes Benedictus, a German, who wrote on the Venereal Disease, *Anno 1550*, says “*blood-letting* is dangerous.”

Joannes Paschalis, a Swede, *Anno 1594*, gives his Opinion that *bleeding* is bad, and must not be ventured on.”

Leonardus Botallus, of Este, *Anno 1565*, condemns *bleeding*.

Conradinus Gilimus, *Anno 1497*, says he has known many in this Disease who have been much the worse for *bleeding*.

I come next to consider the Effects of *strong Purges* for the Cure of venereal Infections, which I do boldly affirm to be Male-practice. Long Experience in an almost incredible Number of Cases has thoroughly proved to me that *purging* in a *Clap*

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is no more a certain Remedy than *Salivation* alone is in a *Pox*; that both are destructive to the human Constitution, and that a compleat Cure may be had for each Ailment without having recourse to the one or the other; if we enquire into the Nature of *Purges*, and the Manner of their Operation, we shall find that all Cathartics of the vegetable Kind, are hot, acrid and pungent; those of the Mineral, sharp and corrosive; that both act by a Stimulus irritating the Fibres of the Intestines, and exciting them to discharge their Contents; and unless the Purge is very strong, it runs off in those Evacuations and the Jumble ceases; but if it lays first hold of the intestinal Glands, and corrodes their Ducts, those Juices are turned off that should supply other Secretions, which will certainly embarrass the animal Oeconomy; for the Increase of one Evacuation is the Diminution of another, and a Deficiency of Humours in any particular part must be injurious, and this is so conspicuous, that if any clap'd Man will but give himself the Trouble to observe, he will find that *the Day he takes Physic, the Heat of Urine and Chordee will be much increased; for*
Purging

Purging lessening the Quantity of Urine, hinders the venereal Salts from being wash'd off, and dissolved so plentifully as they would otherwise be, which makes their Combinations stronger and gives them more Power to be troublesome. I have seen many Instances where a mild Clap has been treated with violent Purgatives, and the Symptoms have abated, consequently the Patient deemed well; but after a few months, a Shanker or a Bubo appeared, which are the sure Marks of a confirmed Pox. This is the grand Objection I have to Cathartics, that they certainly drive the Humours toward the Centre, and consequently cause an Absorption of the venereal Poison into the Blood; for if we allow the Matter in a Clap to be impregnated with the Virus (as that is beyond all Doubt) is it not a preposterous thing to *purge*? Since *Purging* apparently abates the Running, and diverts it from the Channel where it would go off with Safety, to places ever attended with danger. Dr. Boerhaave orders great Moderation to be observed in the giving Cathartics; as he observes the Body (when too much purged) is deprived of its Nourishment, the Vessels are too

much dilated and debilitated ; and if this Evacuation is continued to Excess, all the Humours of the Body may be discharged. That purging and mercurial Discharges have a Power to divert the Virulency from a Place where it fixes on (is well known to every Physician and Surgeon) and seduce it into the Blood ; therefore is it not reasonable to believe, that those Remedies will have the same Effect when given in a Clap, and drive the Contagion into the Habit ? for the Laws of Nature are inviolable with regard to the Operation of Medicines, which answer their Ends constantly by their Effects, let the Intention of the Prescriber be what it will : But admitting the Infection may be carried off in Evacuations by Stool, has not the Virus infinitely more Chance to vitiate the Juices this way, and make the Cure much more tedious, that if at Liberty to pass through the Urethra, the Channel appointed by Nature for its Expulsion ? Moreover, I don't know any thing more destructive to the Constitution than *Purging*, particularly as it is usually insisted on in the Cure of a Clap.---It causes Sickness, hurts the Stomach, impairs the Strength, lays the

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Foundation for Gleans and seminal Weakness, steals the Juices off in colliquative Fluxes, especially in delicate and hectic Habits, and induces a Lentor into the Blood of the most robust and best constitutions, which disposes them to Fevers and many other Disorders: I can with Truth assert, that I have known these, and many other Mischiefs, arise from Purging, and am certain that Numbers have been undone by it. But the Opinions of several *eminent Writers* will have much more Authority to depreciate their Reputation in the World than any thing I can say to their Prejudice, if I can shew from themselves that they also condemn their Use.

As old an Author as *Cælius Aurelianus* finds fault with Purges, by observing “ they
 “ hurt the Stomach, and destroy the ner-
 “ vous System; that they are of poisonous
 “ Qualities, and waste and consume the
 “ Constitution.

Riverius takes Notice, that “ In Purging,
 “ the Patient should be stout and robust,
 “ at least of middling Strength; for the
 “ weak and lax Habits easily melt away.

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The great *Boerhaave* says, “ I never re-
 “ collect, without the greatest Anxiety, the
 “ fatal Trials I have made of Cathartics,
 “ and the Number of Patients I lost in my
 “ first Practice by those Methods”.

That excellent practical Physician Dr.
Thomas Sydenham, observes, that “ purging
 “ Medicines have something poisonous in
 “ their Nature.”

Mr. *James Handley*, Surgcon, well known
 for his valuable Works, says, “ Strong
 “ Purging in this Malady (as is now the
 “ common Method) is certainly male-prac-
 “ tice, such Purges not being capable either
 “ to eradicate the Infection, or to abate its
 “ Virulency, because the Venom lies quite
 “ out of the Way of such Operations, and
 “ instead of Help, does Mischief, by weak-
 “ ening the Solids,” &c.

The celebrated Dr. *Daniel Turner*, says ;
 “ I can by no Means allow of that con-
 “ tinued strong Purgation so customarily
 “ used with Design of securing their Pa-
 “ tients

“ tients from the ill Consequences of the
 “ Infection, or changing the first into the
 “ second, which I am satisfied has brought
 “ on many obstinate Gleets, much harder
 “ to cure than the Pox itself.”

He has also recommended the Words of
 Dr. *Quinsey*, as well worth the Remem-
 brance of every Practitioner, *viz.* “ That
 “ the common Practice by violent Purga-
 “ tions, as well as Mercurials, are mis-
 “ chievous, in so much as under a Pretence
 “ of eradicating Malignities, they so weak-
 “ en the Parts, that it becomes difficult to
 “ restore them to their proper Tone again.”

Dr. *Cockburn* says, “ The essential Qua-
 “ lity of Purging Medicines by which they
 “ are distinguished from all other, is their
 “ stimulating Power, with which some of
 “ them are induced to a very great and un-
 “ determined Degree. Now if any of these
 “ Medicines (the more stimulating espe-
 “ cially) are administered in the Cure of a
 “ Gonorrhæa, they often produce an In-
 “ flammation in some Part; and even mo-
 “ derate purgative Medicines, or such as
 “ have

“ have a Stimulus to a moderate Degree,
 “ being given when the Parts are already
 “ inflamed : In either of these Cases, the
 “ inflamed Parts become thicker, and their
 “ liquor passes through them more slowly,
 “ and thus occasion a Swelling of the Te-
 “ sticles, the Urethra being inflamed by
 “ purging Medicines ; or when the Urethra
 “ is already inflamed by the Corruption of
 “ the Gonorrhœa ; because if either the U-
 “ rethra itself is thicker, or the Coats of
 “ *Lacunæ* are straighter, in that case the
 “ Orifices of these Ducts become straighter,
 “ and the free Discharge of their Liquor is
 “ impeded ; and therefore the Liquor it-
 “ self being pent up in its Ducts, swells
 “ them ; they compressing the next Lacu-
 “ næ, interrupt the Liquor in them, and so
 “ on by the *Vasa Deferentia*, which are
 “ swelled to the Testicle itself, and likewise
 “ swell the Blood-vessels, and other Vessels
 “ that are commonly found in the Testicles.
 “ Now as this is what is only necessary to
 “ produce the Swelling in the Testicles, it is
 “ now manifest how purging Medicines
 “ produce the Swelling, as also which of all
 “ that Tribe most readily produce that Ef-
 “ fect.

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Laurentius Phrysius, of *Metz*, who wrote in the Year 1532,—Advifes (by all Means) very gentle Purging.

Gulielmus Rondeletius, of *Montpellier*, who wrote *Anno* 1560.—Orders the most gentle Purges.

Dionysius Fontaninus, of *Montpellier*, who wrote on this Disease in the Year 1540.—Recommends the most gentle Remedies, and condemns strong Purging.

C H A P. V.

The Effects of Mercury considered.

I Come now to consider the Effects of Mercury on the constitution, which every judicious and honest Man must admit has for many Years past been the greatest Bane to Mankind of any one Medicine in the whole *Materia-Medica*.—Nevertheless, I would not have it imagined that I mean to expunge it out of Practice; far from it; I am sensible it is a noble Medicine, and will do more than is in the Power of any other; but

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as it is too often the Case, that the greatest Helps prove the greatest Mischiefs, through Mismanagement, so it is with Mercury ; For I aver, that as indiscriminately given, as that Medicine now is, it is of much worse Consequence than the Disease itself. The ancient Physicians never gave it but with the greatest Caution, and then it was in old stubborn and confirmed Cases, and where all other Means had failed ; and many of them never depended on it for an absolute Cure. In short, whatever the Use of it may be in a confirmed Pox, it certainly ought never to be given in a Clap ; and this is acknowledged by every Physician and Surgeon who hath taken Pains to be thoroughly acquainted with this Disorder ; yet, strange as it must seem, Mercury alone is given to nine Patients out of ten, because it is the modern Custom, and therefore looked on as the last resource in the most violent complaints ; and what is still more strange, is, the too often flying to that Medicine, to remedy the very Evil it has just brought on, as I have too often seen in Cases where violent Inflammations have seized

seized the Part, with Chordees, &c. occasioned by giving Quantities of Mercury.

I hope the Sentiments of the following Authors, both ancient and modern, will at least prove I am not alone in this Opinion.

De Blegny is of Opinion the Disease may be cured by easy Means without Mercury; he says,

“ This disease may be taken off by pure Nature, and cured by very simple and easy Means, without obliging the Patients to a close Confinement and nice Regimen. But some ignorant, cunning and ambitious Men, are far from granting that it can be cured by the mere Efforts of Nature; neither will they acknowledge that sometimes it may be very easily cured by Art: For some Physicians are intirely devoted to common Experience and their own Practice, and Chirurgeons have such a Regard to their own Reputation, that they never dare to propose other Means of Cure than such as are usual, least they be damned by others who know not their effects and Virtue. In one

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Word, both consult their private Interest so much, that they will not prescribe a Remedy, though never so cheap, which doth not cure but after a considerable Time, long Confinement, and a strict Regimen. These are the Men who assure their Patients, that they cannot be cured but by Mercury, though their distemper be the very same whereof I now treat ; and thus the sick Person must be unnecessarily fluxed, without any regard to the Sex ; young or old, rich or poor, whether in a private or in a public Capacity, all are indiscriminately exposed to the loss of their Means, Honour, Employments, and Life itself.

Pliny calls it a Poison ; and it is also condemned by many ancient Authors, because it hurts the Nerves and Joints, producing Palfies and Tremors.

Wendelinus Hoc de Brackenaw, Anno 1514, orders the greatest Caution in the Use of Mercury.

Ulrichus de Hutten, a German, who wrote
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in the Year 1519, speaking of himself, says, " For my own Part, I struggled with the Venereal Disease for nine whole Years, in which Time I underwent eleven Salivations without Success, but was afterwards cured by other Methods." This old Author is strongly recommended by Dr. *Boerhaave*.

Jacobus Cataneus of *Genoa*, who wrote in the Year 1516, quotes the opinion of *Dioscorides* that " Mercury kills by its Weight; it often bursting the Intestines."

Nicolaus Poll, Anno 1536, gives an Account of three thousand *Spaniards* being cured without Mercury.

Petrus Andreus Matthiolus, of *Sienna*, who wrote in the Year 1536; orders great Care in the Use of Mercury.

Joannes Baptista Montanus, of *Verona*, who wrote his Discourse on the Venereal Disease in the Year 1550; an Author in great Esteem among the Antients; speaking
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ing of Mercury, says thus “ As for Mercury it indeed represses the Duetate: but it returns after with greater Violence than ever ; though sometimes it will lie smothered for several Months, nay for four, or even six Years. Besides, Mercury always affects the principal Parts; it occasions Palsies, Tremors and Stupors; and I knew one who upon its Use became Epileptic. Besides, Mercury so spoils the Complexion, that the Skin never afterwards recovers its former Colour.

Benedictus Victorius, of Faenza, Anno 1551, tells us to take great Care in the Use of Mercury.

Joannes Fernelius, of Amiens, in the Year 1555, wrote his Discourse on this Disorder, where he observes that Mercury has very bad Effects on the Nerves and Joints.

Antoninus Fracantianus, of Vincentia, Anno 1564, orders the greatest Caution in the Use of Mercury.

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Prosperus Borgarutius, of *Padua*, Anno 1566, speaking of the ill effects of Mercury, says ; “ By the immoderate Use of Mercury, the Organs of Generation are so affected, that the Patient often loses his prolific Faculty : this I have known happen to infinite Numbers of both Sexes.”

To descend to the Opinions of the Moderns, Dr. *Harvey*, among the Causes of the Scurvy reckons the taking mercurial Preparations, or using them externally.

Dr. *Huxham* says, “ A long or large Use of Mercury will turn the whole Mass of Blood into a mere watery Colluvies.”

Mr. *Abraham Gordon*, Surgeon-Major to the third Regiment of Foot, in his Letter to the Physicians of *London*, relative to a Preparation of Mercury, says, “ Before I conclude, I must observe, that neither I, nor any of the Regimental Surgeons who used the Medicine at the same Time with me, have ever considered it as a proper Cure for a *Gonorrhæa Virulenta*; always understanding by the Term *Lues Venerea*,

a confirmed Pox ; without comprehending the virulent Running, which, if not attended with other Symptoms, is cured without any Mercury at all."

Boerhaave, after recommending the most gentle Methods, says, " Away then with Mercurials and strong Lixiviums ! for by their Use I have seen twenty Instances where a good Gonorrhæa has terminated in the worst Inflammation and Priapism in the Space of twenty-four Hours,

And again he says (speaking of giving some gentle Purgatives) " I do not mention Mercury because I never permit that Medicine to enter into the Body, unless the Cure does not yield to other Remedies ; 1st. Because it has something so incorrigible, that it almost always leaves some sad Remains of itself in our Fibres, where our greatest Vigour lies ; and thus brings on untimely old Age ; and as the mildest Medicines ought always to be exhibited where the Disease is light, so Mercurials should not be prescribed in a Gonorrhæa."

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Dr. Astruc says, “ Mercurial Preparations, by the Acid Spicula wherewith they are stuck round, twitch and vellicate the Parts of the Stomach, and thereby injure and weaken it. For which Reason, such Persons as have been long accustomed to the Use of Internal Mercurial Medicines are generally subject to Disorders in their Stomachs.

“ Because from the Dose that is given, the Particles of Mercurial Medicines inwardly taken, must be thrown into the Blood through the Mouths of the Lacteal Vessels, in a very small Quantity. As therefore it from hence appears, that the Stomach, Lungs, and other Viscera, may be injured by Mercurial Preparations, inwardly taken, and that their Use is never absolutely safe: So neither are they ever able perfectly to correct the Blood, nor expel the Poison, when deeply rooted, nor consequently cure an inveterate Case of the Venereal Disease.”

C H A P. VI.

The ill Consequences of Injections and Astringent Medicines considered, and endeavoured to be reasonably accounted for.

I Have seen the most unhappy Consequences attend the use of Injections. The Gonorrhæa indeed is thereby soon suppressed but that is only done by inducing an Eschar on the Orifice of the *Lacunæ*; whence the Flux of that Matter is impeded, which is the Vehicle for discharging the Venereal Virus. Under these Crustaceous Eschars, Ulcers are generated. I have frequently observed, that all those Injections that are Astringent, Corrosive, or Consuming, are equally Pernicious here, as fatal Experience has often taught: for the same Reason, Corroborants must be avoided, because thereby the Orifices are diminished from a Constriction of their Fibres; on this Account *Allum* is to be rejected; the Last, or *Sach Saturni* dissolved in Water (by way of Injection) constitutes almost every Arcanum, and are in

in general Use : *Vitriolum Martis*, and *Vitriolum Cupri*, are however the principal. To them we may add Mineral Chalybeats, called *Acidulæ*, of which the *German Spa*, and *Tornnelet*, are the most famous ; in these the Vitriol of Iron abounds ; others make Tinctures by infusing *Balsam Capivi*, *Balsam Peru*, *Myrrh*, *Mastic*, *Olibanum*, with *Saffron*, &c. in Spirits of Wine : With this, diluted, they wash the affected Parts, by which the Flux is diminished, but the Disorder increased, for which cause *Boerhaave* says, speaking of Injections and Astringent Medicines “ These things were rejected
 “ by the ancient Physicians, to whom they
 “ were as well known, as they are to the
 “ Moderns. Many use Decoctions made of
 “ the most Astringent Materials, as *Cinque*
 “ *Foil*, *Tormentil Root*, *sharp pointed Dock*,
 “ *Rhubarb* itself, (which being mixed with
 “ *Honey of Roses* is used in Injections) but as
 “ they are mixed with a large Quantity of
 “ Honey and Water, they relax more than
 “ Astringe ; all these Things I reject.

“ We have before remarked, what was
 “ observed by some of the antient Writers,
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“ that Persons in the Pox, on whom a Go-
 “ norrhæa broke out, were thereby cured of
 “ the Lues. This new Appearance, they
 “ did not at first know how to cure, as we
 “ are told by *Antonius Brassavolus*, who
 “ also calls the Gonorrhæa, a *Lues Venerea*;
 “ and *Alexander Petronius*, a most skilful
 “ and eminent *Italian* Physician, says, that
 “ a Gonorrhæa let alone, cures itself, if
 “ not interrupted by contrary Medicines;
 “ especially when unaccompanied by the
 “ Appearances which indicate great Malig-
 “ nancy, as yellow or brown Matter, Pain,
 “ Heat, &c. from all which it is evident
 “ that Astringents act in a Manner directly
 “ opposite to the Design of Nature. I
 “ would now ask, how any one dares pre-
 “ sume (after Nature has produced this Sa-
 “ lutory Discharge, in order to prevent its
 “ access into the Body) to suppress it, by
 “ constringing the Passages through which
 “ it flows?” Dr. *Astruc* also rejects the
 Practice of Injections.

Dr. *Cockburn*, speaking of Astringent Me-
 dicines, says, “ It is manifest that the cor-
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rupted Running receiving a Check, from Astringent Medicines, will flow into the Blood, poison it, and produce the *Lues*, with Symptoms of different Degrees of Malignity, as the Stoppage is entirely, total, or in Part; and the Difference of a Partial and Total Stoppage is so considerable, that Misfortunes of the first Kind are Twenty-times more easily retrieved, than of the last, when there is a total Stoppage and Suppression of the corrupted Matter."

Dr. *Paxton* says, that "The Running being stopt by any Means whatever, the blood soon becomes poisoned, as evidently appears by the Variety of succeeding Symptoms, which will sooner, or later break out in very different Forms."

De Blegny, mentioning the Care which ought to be used in treating Veneral Diseases, says "No body can be Ignorant how important it is, that these Distempers should be treated with the greatest Circumspection; because in Men, the Fibres of the delicate Membrane, at the Extremity of the *Urethra*, which serves to obstruct an Involuntary

luntary Loss of the Semen, are sometimes cut and corroded, either by the Acrimonious Matter of the Flux, or by the Violence of those Medicines, which Ignorant Practitioners use in their Injections. Besides, an unreasonable Stop being put to the fluent Matter, must necessarily cause a Pox, or a Bubo, or at least fall upon the Testicles, from which it is not easily taken off. These Observations are widely different from those of Quacks and Empiricks, who having their Designs calculated solely for their private Interest, never inform their Patients of those Things I have just now mentioned, knowing them to be directly contrary to those pernicious Maxims which they impose upon the Easy and Credulous." This Author further says, speaking of Venereal Buboës, after observing that Care should be taken to bring forth the Matter, to digest and thoroughly cleanse them, " There are nevertheless a Sort of Men, who to obtain a Name, though by the most indirect and unusual Means, have had the Impudence to affirm that there is no Necessity to open such Tumors. It were to be wished, that Patients were well informed of the Certainty of
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of this Truth, that they may avoid and discourage such a damnable Practice and Knavery."

Physicians and Surgeons must take Care to inform the World, that the greatest, the safest, and least known of all the Secrets of the Art of curing Venereal Diseases, is a right Use of the Materia Medica, from which joined with Experience, a Method both justifiable and successful may be introduced. But this is to be expected only from Men of Knowledge, Experience and Discretion; for in Physic, as in all other liberal Arts, Theory must lead to the Practice, and we may make many Experiments to no Purpose, if we know not how to improve them.

The Learned *Sydenham*, has endeavoured to set us in a clear Light respecting from what kind of Remedies we are to hope a Cure.

This Gentleman wrote his Letter on the Venereal Disease about the Year 1680, wherein he tells us of the shocking Effects of it, before the Gonorrhæa, or running first appeared:

peared: his words are, “ When a Person was seized with this Disorder, it presently contaminated their whole Mass of Blood, with dreadful Pains in the Head and Limbs, and shewed itself in Ulcers in various Parts, and that if it had continued with the same Celerity it would have destroyed Mankind in a few Ages;” and he also informs us “ that it was a hundred Years before that Time that the Running first appeared; therefore it is now about 183 Years since its first Appearance. Nature, being always Industrious to discharge what is hurtful to the Habit of the Body, produced the Gonorrhæa, or Running as an Outlet, to carry off the Venereal Poison; which so well answered her Intentions, that it checked its destructive Career, and obliged it to put on a milder Countenance. Now as it plainly appears how dreadfully this Disease afflicted Mankind, by the first Infection, being generally mortal, till this favourable and happy Symptom came to their Relief. Then must it not seem strange, and one would imagine impossible, for Remedies to creep into general Practice, directly repugnant to this seasonable Relief. It is

is evident Nature has pointed out the Cure, and it is the Business of every Practitioner to assist her in her Efforts.

To insert more Quotations, and enlarge on the ill Consequence of Astringent Remedies, that is, on the Means that repel the Venereal Poison into the Blood, whether by Medicines, Injections, &c. would answer no other Purpose but that of swelling the Discourse, and ingrossing the Reader's Time. Therefore to avoid an Imputation of that Nature, let it suffice to say, such Methods are neither warrantable to God nor Man, being the most certain Means to destroy the Patient's future Happiness, which indeed must be obvious to all (even the meanest Capacity) to be absolute Male Practice.

After having thus considered the real Effects of the Methods in general Use, I mean Bleeding, strong Purging, Mercurial Medicines, Astringents, Injections, &c. I shall examine whether *Diuretic* Medicines are not to be preferred in the Cure of the Venereal Disease.

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CHAP.

C H A P. VII.

An Account of Diuretic Medicines ; with the Author's Reasons for preferring them to all other Means ever yet introduced in Practice ; proving they, and they only, act agreeable to the Intentions of Nature, by assisting her to discharge the Venereal Virus before any other Part of the Body is injured.

DIURETICS are Medicines that dilute and attenuate the Blood and other Juices, disposing their more serous, and humid Parts, to go off in greater Quantities, through the Urinary Passages, and also to carry along with them the Dregs and Impurities of those Fluids. As there are different Degrees of Strength in Purges, Diuretics likewise have several Gradations ; and both from the most gentle Stimulus, may be increased to the Violence of a Caustic : hence appears the Necessity of being well acquainted with their Nature and Manner of Operation, lest what is given to abate an Inflammation, should

should be the Means of increasing it.—
 The Diuretics proper on this Occasion, are those which are of a texture so loose and dissolute that they mix most intimately with the Blood; and the Use of them for a little Time, so saturates the whole Mass, that if any Taint or Contagion has infected the Juices, or lies lurking in the smaller Vessels, they immediately cause a Dissolution of their Virulence, and freeing them from their Viscidities, carrying their Impurities off by gently promoting Urine, and moderately increasing the perspirable Discharge.

The famous *De Blegny* says, “ There is nothing more certain, than that Diuretics are so liquid and penetrating, that they may be communicated to the Mass of Blood; be impregnated with the Humours they find in it; convey them off the Body, and precipitate them with the Urine.”

Again he says, “ As to the Nature of the Remedies to be employed, it deserves to be considered, that the Inflammation of the Parts affected in a Gonorrhæa, can never be

more effectually taken off, than by Medicines which may reach the Bladder; and that the Impurity cannot be more directly and effectually thrown out, than by those Ways by which it was communicated." He afterwards observes, that "very gentle Purgatives are sometimes necessary to be added to the Diuretics." He then adds, that "such gentle Methods are the only safe Cure without being under a Necessity of using Mercury, which most Surgeons ignorantly give their Patients, either with their Purgatives or some other Way.

We have seen the Opinion of the great *Boerhaave*, respecting the Nature of this Disease, and Method of Cure, in the foregoing Chapters of this Discourse; an Author, who is allowed to exceed all others in his Descriptions of this Disease; an Author, ever valuable, not only for being a great Master in his Profession, (whose words are standards for Medicinal Rules) but for the clear Appearance of Honesty and sound Judgment, which shine through all his works, not being calculated for private Purposes, or to serve any particular Class. On the contrary, the
good

good of Mankind plainly appears to be the sole Motive for the Pains and Labour he continually went through.

It is a Fact not to be disputed, that no one Disorder which the human Body is liable too, has been treated on by such an infinite Number of Authors; nor is there any Disease on which Opinions so evidently differ. Mercury was found serviceable, and often cured in desperate Cases: But when introduced into frequent Practice on the other Hand, was more often attended with the most fatal Consequences; we have seen that the most ancient Physicians either condemned its Use, or ordered the greatest Caution therein: in short, they found the bad Effects, from bringing it into common Practice.

But it is apparent, succeeding Practitioners, were either less regardful of their Patients future welfare, or too negligent to give themselves the Trouble to seek after easier Remedies. For Mercury soon became the Grand Medicine; as by that Messenger, they were sure to have some Business done; either

either the Disease in Part, or wholly subdued, or (which was oftner the Case) both Constitution and Disease fell Victims together; but a still worse observation to make (and what every honest Man will allow) is, that frequently after violent Salivations, where a Patient has been emaciated to a mere Skeleton, and has been deemed cured; no sooner has he recovered his former Strength and Flesh, than the Symptoms of the Pox have returned. However, I once more must beg leave to observe, that I do not mean to reject its Use in all Cases of the Venereal Disease, any more than in other Maladies incident to the Human Species. But this I affirm, that it is not required once in twenty-times where it is used. I was in Company some time since with a very eminent Practical Physician, who was fully of Opinion, that Mercury being known by the Vulgar occasioned its being of much more hurt than benefit to Mankind. This I have long been convinced of, respecting Venereal Cases, having had ocular Demonstration of the most shocking Objects, ruined and spoiled by having their Blood loaded with that Medicine; and this in the most
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simple Cafes, which would have yielded to a few Doses of Manna and Salts, particularly if affifted with a Decoction of Marsh Mallows, or any emollient Diuretic Draughts.--After all, it is evident to any unprejudiced Reader, that a Method has been handed down from fome violent Practitioners, that has now crept into general Vogue; with this Maxim, that Venereal Diforders cannot be cured without Mercury. We have before heard the Opinion of the greateft Authors on this Subject. And I fhall now quote the famous *Blegny's* Sentiments refpecting the common treatment Patients fuffer.

He writes thus: (after mentioning the Advantage of eafy and mild Remedies)
 “ Seeing then we may become fuccefsful, and procure fuch confiderable Advantages by a fage and judicious Conduct; thofe who apply themfelves, particularly to Venereal Difeaſes, ought never to deny their Patients the Satisfaction of knowing the certain event of their Diſtempers which are more or lefs eafy to be cured according to their Degrees, and ſometimes of that Nature that they cannot be neglected without
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exposing the Patients to the greatest danger. Thus, by duly considering the Pox, they will be thoroughly convinced that it is owing to a Fermentation that has not continued long, and that the Increase of it must terminate in a more dangerous State; that the Symptoms of the second Degree are only the Effects of a subtil Matter, not yet disposed to adhere to any particular Part; that the Motion of the circulating Blood may be augmented by Nature only, or such internal Sudorifics, as are proper to facilitate the Separation of the Impurity that is then mixed with the Homogenous Parts of the Blood; and that strong and often repeated Purgative Medicines may excite a Precipitation of the Venereal Matter."

Again he says, " You are likewise to avoid the unaccountable Practice of those ignorant Pretenders, who advise their Patients to undergo a Salivation, whenever they observe that Venereal Shankers are not soon cured, though there appear no Sign of a Pox. But you may rely upon it, that after you have attained a right Method of managing these Distempers, by Reading,
Medi-

Meditation, and a little Application, there are none of them, though accompanied with the Pox itself, or with its Symptoms, which you may not cure ; and therefore you are, with all imaginable Care, to avoid the creating unnecessary Trouble to your Patients, or engaging them to undergo the last Remedy, without apparent Necessity."

The same Author, in his Chapter on the possibility of curing a Pox without Mercury and Salivation, writes thus: " Having considered the Crisis of the Pox, as entirely owing to nature, I now come to discourse, concerning those procur'd by Art, and which are excited by common Evacuatives and such as are caused by Mercury. But though this Distinction be founded upon most certain and undoubted Proofs, yet it has not been hitherto generally received and approved ; for most Part of those who practice this Art, are rather inclined to believe, that it is by this Mineral only that a Pox can be cured, than to apply themselves to make any farther Trial : Nay, they are not only pleased to persist in their Error, but they likewise endeavour to induce others

to embrace it, though never so false, by damning all new Discoveries, as Impostures, and unusual Remedies, as poisonous; and whoever undertakes to cure a Pox, by such Remedies as are more easy and gentle than Mercury; and by Ways that are more natural than Salivation, forthwith becomes the Butt of Envy, and loaded with a thousand Reproaches; at the same Time, those envious Ignorants take occasion to prepossess the Minds of their Patients, whom they find to be easily imposed on, when they are told some Things in Physic are mysterious; for the very Imagination of that which may shorten life, is capable to fright every body."

After all, I have long experienced that a Medicine may be contrived, under the Quality of a Diuretic, that will cure this Disorder without the least Trouble to the Patient, I have experienced: it is now five Years since I began to administer it to my Patients; and do declare it has succeeded, even beyond my expectation. As my constant Method is, to keep regular Minutes of all Cases that occur;
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and by what Means cured, (which in the abovementioned Time I find to exceed fifteen Hundred ;) I can with certainty assert where the Medicine has succeeded, and where not. It was the Hints, or indeed rather the Directions we have from the antient Physicians, which first put me on making Trial of some easier Remedy, at the same Time having the Advantage of a continual Number of Venereal Patients under my Care, that I was not under the least Difficulty to fix the Medicine to a proper Degree of Strength, to be thoroughly effectual, and yet not the least weaken the Parts. ---It has also another Advantage over the common Diuretics, which is very material, *i. e.* that in most Constitutions it keeps the Body gently open. On the whole, I have found it to answer *Boerhaave's* Directions, the Scope of which is obtained by a Medicine, that hath not the least Particle of Mercury in its Composition; nothing that requires Confinement, or any particular Management, so as to give the least Suspicion to the most intimate Acquaintance, nor the Restraints of any Kind; except indeed, from Excesses and Coition, (which latter

ought by all Means to be avoided) as it operates by communicating itself to all the circulating Juices of the Body; and its Texture being loose and dissoluble, it mixes most intimately with the Blood; and in a few Days, so saturates the whole Mass, that if any Taint or Contagion has infected it, or lies lurking in the small Vessels, it immediately causes a Dissolution of their Virulency, and freeing them from their Viscidities, carries off their Impurities, by gently promoting Urine, and moderately increasing the perspirable Discharge; and as it pervades every Channel through which the Circulation flows, so it breaks through Cohesions and Obstructions, and carries its salutary Virtues to the remotest Parts; and yet is so innocent, it may safely and advantageously be taken by Women in their Pregnancy; and what justly gives a still greater Preference to this Medicine in the Cure of this Disease, is its suitableness to all Circumstances and Constitutions. It may be taken with benefit in a Fever, or any other inflammatory Disorder; and will be found a very effectual Remedy in the Gout, Scurvy, Rheumatism, and all other Cronic Ailments, where the Juices of the Body are foul and fizy. I have

have also proved it of very great Use in removing those frightful Symptoms brought on by the too frequent Use of Mercury, and ill cured Claps; the taking it some considerable Time will entirely remove the Complaints, if the Constitution is not quite ruined; even then it will preserve the Patient from worse Consequences, and make life much more comfortable.—The *Fluor Albus*, or Feminine Weakness, is a Disorder incident to Women; few escaping the Effects of it, and by a long Continuance is attended with many Evils, and often with the most fatal Consequences; the Cure of which must depend (as we find by a due Consideration of the Causes and Effects) on such Medicines as have regard to the Degree of the Plethora, as the relaxation of the Vessels, so that whatever is capable of dissolving the Lensor in the Blood, and promoting the Circulation of the Fluids, of increasing the Secretions, and invigorating the lax State of the Vessels, must conduce to the Cure: That this Medicine will have these Effects, I have often proved, and do therefore recommend it as a powerful Remedy in this dis-

disagreeable Disorder ; having frequently succeeded when all other Means have failed.

I shall now purposely avoid saying more, respecting the Efficacy of this Medicine, which I call the *Essence*; as it is composed of the principal Virtues of many Ingredients; brought (by Distillation) into a little Compass, so small that twenty or twenty five Drops is the middling Dose, and so grateful to the Stomach, that it does not disagree with the most delicate Constitution. I say, I purposely avoid a Repetition of the good Qualities of these Drops, lest it should be thought Ostentatious : And on the other hand, if the Reasons I have offered in favour of the Medicine in the Cure of these Disorders, are not esteemed sufficient to encourage its Use, let it speak for itself, and I dare affirm no other Recommendation will be required; as a Method of Cure, depending on the Laws of Nature and her Operations in the Constitution, despises the Assistance of the common Artifices, and requires no false Story to advance its Praise ; no Lustre to set it off : no Voucher or Evidence to prove its Success : The consideration alone

One of its Designs will be sufficient to recommend it to the World, because it will be obvious to all Persons, that it is founded on Reason.

Yet this I must beg leave to observe, that no Medicine can be better invented for thoroughly subduing the Remains of Venereal Poisons lurking in the Blood, as it may be taken any length of Time, without the least Alteration as to Regimen ; and never is offensive to the Stomach, but rather creates an Appetite : in these Cases, it acts as an Alterative, which causes a Change or Alteration in the blood and Juices; melting down and destroying the pocky Virus, which is discharged either by Sweat, Stool, or Urine.

The Necessity, Care, and Caution, it behoves every Person to take, to endeavour to be thoroughly cured of that most infernal Fire, or Poison, and the great Reason every Person may have to be fearful of its not being subdued, when they have been once severely infected, or have been ill treated by ignorant Practitioners ; we may learn
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from the following Observations of the several great Authors : to which is joined a very remarkable and most shocking Case.

Some very remarkable and important Passages we find in the *Bibliotheca Anatomica Medica Chirurgica*, &c. Extracted from the most eminent Writers. And first *Musitanus* says, “ that it often happens in Practice, that after the Universal Pox is cured, there still remains a lurking Poison in some Part of the Body ; as in the Caries or Gangrene of some Bones, in some Nodes or hard Knots, which admits of no Dissolution, by the Action of Mercury.

The Venereal Disease is not commonly Mortal, there having been some who have had it 30 or 30 Years ; and when they die, it does not so much proceed from this Disease as from some others, contracted by the Disorders and irregular Courses used in the Cure thereof, or the Alterations made by Time, and the Constitution or Habit of the Body. Besides, it too commonly happens, that the most Part of those who are in this Condition, do not suffer themselves to be
treated

treated as they ought to be; some are backward because they have not Money enough to pay for their Cure; others because their Business do not permit; a third because they are in the Hands of such as have no Skill, or at least want Honesty, to compleat a Cure: there are some Bodies of singular Dispositions, upon which Mercury cannot produce the desired Effect notwithstanding all the Precautions and Means that can be used. Therefore it often falls out, by Reason of these Faults or Impediments, that the Venereal Distemper is not cured, but only its Symptoms; and that some of the Venereal Ferment does still remain in the Body, which in process of Time, lodges and intangles itself in the Humours in such a manner, that many Inconveniencies afterwards ensue, which sometimes are not directly a Pox, though they have sprung from it as their proper Fountain: from thence it is that there are so many Scrophulous Tumours, so many old Ulcers, so many Gouts and Rheumatisms, so often Whites amongst the Women; and in a Word, from thence arises the most Part of those Diseases, which we observe in Families, and which unhap-

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pily have only ordinary Means applied to them, because their Source is concealed, and the Physicians themselves many Times dare not be inquisitive concerning their Original.

Georgius Vell, of *Brussels*, *Anno* 1516, says, “ This Disease at first did not break out immediately, but would lurk in the Habit a Month or two, and sometimes four Months, before any real Symptoms appeared.”

Hieronimus Fracastorius, of *Verona*, wrote on this Disease in the Year 1530, and to the same Effect.

Prosperus Borgiautius, of *Padua*, *Anno* 1566, says, The Venereal Disease sometimes does not appear for some Months, or even Years, after the Contagion is received.

Bernadinus Tomitanus of *Padua*, *Anno* 1566, says, ‘ It is sometimes four, five or six Months after the Poison was received, before the Disease plainly breaks out, though I have known it discover itself by a Pain

“ Pain in the Præputium the next Day after it was caught.”

Amatus Lusitanus, Anno 1552, gives us a very remarkable Account of the Venereal Poison lying concealed in the Blood for 17 Years, in the following Words:
 “ A Person who was afflicted with this
 “ Disease, by the Means of a great many
 “ different Remedies, got so far rid of it,
 “ that he seemed to be quite well. Ten
 “ Years afterwards he married a very virtuous Woman, who within five Years
 “ brought him two fine healthy Boys ; in
 “ the seventh Year she was delivered of a
 “ third Boy, who had Pocky Eruptions
 “ upon his Skin. The Mother continued
 “ all along in very good Health ; only before her Delivery of the last Child, she
 “ had some small Ulcers betwixt her Lips
 “ and Nose, and after her Delivery her
 “ breath grew Fetid, and her Breasts were
 “ so obstructed with coagulated Milk, that
 “ she could not possibly give suck. Upon
 “ this Account the Child was put out to a
 “ Nurse, who in a few Days became infected, and had the same pocky Eruption

“ with the Child. She gave it to her Hus-
 “ band, and to two Children of her Neigh-
 “ bours, to whom she had offered her
 “ Breast; and they communicated the
 “ Disease to their Mothers; in short,
 “ within a Month, no less than nine
 “ were infected. The Boy lived only a
 “ Month, and the Father was seized with
 “ a Fever, which cut him off in six Days;
 “ the Mother and the other Persons infect-
 “ ed, after the Use of many Remedies, re-
 “ covered.”

De Elegny, enumerating the Symptoms of
 the Pox, says, “ No less ambiguous are
 “ the Symptoms which accompany the Pox
 “ in its second Degree; for albeit, spon-
 “ taneous Weariness, Uneasiness, Itching
 “ in the Skin, and sometimes shedding the
 “ Hair, Tetters, malignant Ulcers, Rot-
 “ tenness of the Teeth, and of other Bones.”

To which may be added, Pains in the
 Head, wandering Pains in the Limbs,
 particularly in the Legs, which torment
 the Person most in the Evening; and fre-
 quently when warm in Bed; the Eyes
 are

are weak, and often run a limped Water; the ears tingle, and Noises in the Head are often heard, which are exceeding perplexing; Eruptions often break out on the Skin, and as often return again; a Hectic Heat attends the Afflicted, which generally increases towards Evening; a remarkable Dejection of Spirits is almost a certain Attendant; partly owing to the Disease, and partly to the Patient's Dread of the Consequences. There are many more Symptoms which indicate the Pox to be in the Blood; but these are sufficient to give Instruction to those who suspect it to be their Case. This therefore is sufficient to prove that the Venereal Poison when thought to be conquered, may lie lurking in the Blood for many Years, without any manifest Hurt. Yet as soon as by any Accident the Temper of the Blood shall be altered and depraved, tho' there be no new Accession of Poison, the disease shall, *Hydra*-like, revive, and speedily bring on very grievous Symptoms, which shall end in a confirmed Pox. Both these Particulars are certainly very strange, that so noxious a Poison should lie so long quiet, without doing any Mischief in the
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midst of the Blood, and be thoroughly mixed with it, and that so small a Quantity of Poison should be preserved entire in the Blood, which of itself is daily renewed.--- And yet, neither of these Circumstances is peculiar to the Venereal Poison; for the Poison which produces an Hydrophobia, may not only lie quiet in the Body for several Days after the Bite, but sometimes for several Years before it shews itself, and brings on the Dread of Water, and the other terrible Symptoms which attend it.

If we give Credit to the common Opinion, the Ferment, or Poison, which gives rise to the Small-Pox, is brought with us into the World, and consequently lies lurking without Detriment for a very long Season, till an Opportunity offers of exerting itself, and producing sometimes most fatal Effects.

I hope it will be deemed no breach of Modesty in me, if I presume to acquaint my Reader why I think I am better acquainted with this Disease than some other of my Brethren of my Profession : My seeking more deeply
into

into the Cause, Nature, and Cure of Venereal Infections, was owing first, to my generally having a great Number of Patients under my Care: Secondly, my extensive Practice in curing Fistulas and Piles. (Fistulas in particular) which soon convinced me of the Necessity there was to find out some safer and more easy Method of curing Venereal Infections, as those that were occasioned (which are not a few) by the Venereal Disorder, are of the worst Consequences: And thirdly, I may justly add to these, that it has cost me much Pains and Trouble to know the nature of its Disposition and Temper so well as I do; for the Venereal Disease is full of deceit and artifice; no Mimick has more power over the Features of his Face, or can throw himself into a greater Variety of Attitudes, than the Pox has of appearing in the Form of other Maladies, and assuming the Shapes of different Ailments: but the Pox has peculiar Virulency, some certain Signs to distinguish it from other Disorders, notwithstanding the strong Resemblance of the Symptoms; and if you treat it according to the Nature of its Disposition,

sition, you may easily keep it within bounds; but if you suffer it to get a Head, you cannot so readily shake off this troublesome Companion. Lastly, I say, When it is considered the great Experience I have had of the bad Effects of the Methods now in use for the Cure of Venereal Infections, through a long Course of successful Practice in curing Fistulas and Piles, without cutting, or seldom using any outward Application, having plainly proved that Medicines applied outwardly are too often hurtful, but always trifling, (never procuring an absolute Cure) the Cause being in the Blood, the Cure depends upon such Medicines as have regard to it. By my Method without Cutting (a few Cases excepted) it is known I have and do succeed in the most deplorable Cases, but in those obstinate ones, proceeding from ill cured Venereal Injuries, by the baneful Practice, now in common Use. Can it deserve a Name, when the shocking Victims we daily see evince it. Fistulas of this kind (as observed before) often penetrate the Bladder, &c. &c. Parts, that in such Cases admit of no Cure; Unhappy Creatures doom'd to a Life of the most miserable

miserable Kind. Numbers of these Victims have been under my Care, and several are at this Time receiving what Assistance I can give them, which at best is but Palliative in these destructive Cases. Perplexed with these Embarrassments, and struck with compassion, I was urged thereby to make the deepest Reflexions; the Result of which is *the Medicine now offered to the Public*, a safe and absolute Cure for Venereal Infections; consequently a preventive of those and the like shocking Cases abovementioned, which Cases are not to be cured, but prevented; therefore the striking at the Cause, was the discovering a more easy, and safe Method of curing the Venereal Disease; and this I have accomplished. After the above Considerations it will not seem extraordinary that I had ample reason to reject the present Practice, a Practice so highly detrimental to the Race of Mankind, that Children unborn will hereafter feel the Effects of it.

I now cannot help saying, I fear the bad Success that has too often attended the Practice of Physicians and Surgeons in the

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Cure of this Disease. I mean that Kind which is in common Use, and for which nothing can plead but Custom, tho' indeed that is respected by some as an undeniable Law; yet it is well known to be often grounded on Notions opposite to right reason; and this is verified in no one Instance more than in the present Method of treating Venereal Infections, to the ill Success of which I repeat my Opinion, that we may impute the Number of Impositions the Public have, and do receive from those vile Pretenders to the Knowledge of the Medical Art. I indeed proposed not to have touched on this Matter, but Humanity, Brotherly-Love, and every Christian Sense requires it; the repeated Instances which I have of the Destruction that attends the unhappy Patients who apply for their Compositions would move the most obdurate Heart; and the more so as it principally happens among the poor working People, who when once robbed (by some one of these vile Miscreants) of both Money and Constitution, drag on a Life with Infamy and Disgrace, falling at last a Sacrifice to the Disease, or rather to the promised Remedies: It is almost in-

incredible the Number of poor Creatures that apply to me after being with some of the Doctors, as they call themselves.

I cannot help mentioning an Instance or two out of a Multitude, that have occurred. Some time ago, a Man came to me, desiring my Advice ; I asked him his Case, and he related it as follows : That about seven Years ago he perceived himself infected with a Clap ; on which he immediately applied to an eminent Surgeon in the City, who after about six Weeks, told him he was well, all the Symptoms being gone off, and in short he found himself so. But that two Months before he applied to me, he was attacked violently with a Pain in the Throat, and lower Jaw, but chiefly centered in one Tooth ; he was greatly alarmed, simply supposing it to be occasioned by a Remains of the Venereal Complaint, which he was cured of seven Years before, and accordingly lost no Time, but went immediately to one of the great Genius's in the *Old Baily*, who confirmed him in his Opinion, by saying those Symptoms were certain Marks of a universal Pox, and that it

was highly necessary to preserve his Life to undergo a slight Salivation : the Man consented, and the Cure was set about; in short, this poor deluded Man was kept in a Spitting State (by the Use of Mercurial Ointment and Pills) for six Weeks; and then finding his Teeth, Mouth and Throat much the worse, with his Pocket two Guineas lighter, he resolved to leave his Doctor in Hopes of finding some more easy Remedy: on hearing this Relation, after asking a few Questions, and looking in the Man's Mouth to discover this confirmed Pox, I really could not help smiling, though at the same Time I pitied the Man, who further informed me, he was Journeyman to a Silk-Mercer in the City, and was fearful his Master would discover it, (meaning the Pox) as he was ordered to eat no high seasoned Meats, &c. &c. I soon relieved him from his Anxiety, by assuring him, he was free from any Venereal Complaint, and that the Symptoms which he had undergone so severe a Penance to be cured of, were no more than the common Attendants of a Cold, particularly where the Teeth were decayed, which was his Case; I therefore ordered

dered him to have his Tooth immediately drawn, and take a Dose of Manna and Salts once or twice a Week to purge off the Mercury, which had been so injudiciously administered; he followed my Directions, and called on me in about ten Days (with repeated Thanks for my salutary Advice) telling me he had felt no Pain since the removal of the decayed Tooth, and was in great Spirits to find his deplorable Disorder so soon removed. The next I shall mention is a Person that lives in *Holborn*, who (as he informs me) finding himself attacked with the Venereal Disease, applied to a certain set of People who call themselves a Society of Physicians, &c. by *St. Dunstan's Church, Fleet-Street*, one of whom he saw, who gave him a Bottle of Drops that were soon to effect a Cure, the Dose ten or twelve; this man continued them some time, but finding no Amendment, he increased the Dose to a hundred, and a hundred and twenty, but found no Difference in the Effect: he now discovered a Swelling in his Groin, which terminated in a Bubo; he immediately applied to the Society, but saw only one, the same Person who had before

fore given him the Drops, (and who by the bye, this Man informed me, he was told in the Neighbourhood was a Barber ;) on his telling him of the Bubo, he, this pretended Phyfician, defired to fee it, which was accordingly complied with ; and without doubt was judiciously examined, as you will find by the Remedy, which was, after many fignificant Looks, pronounced to be Shoe-makers Wax, as a certain Cure for all Bubos ; this grand Remedy was accordingly applied ; but after a few Days, the poor Man perceiving the Diforder gain Strength, faw too late through the Fraud, and applied to me, who found him in this Situation, with his large Plaifter of Shoe-makers Wax, which covered almoft the right Groin : I directly opened the Bubo, and in fix Weeks difmiffed him, well. A third Cafe I cannot help mentioning, which, if poffible, is a ftronger Proof of the Ignorance of thefe Set of Men ; which is this : A young Man, of about Twenty Years of Age, a Jeweller by Trade, called on me in the Evening, defiring my Advice : He related his Complaint in this Manner ; That about five Weeks before, he had Reason to fuppose

suppose he had contracted a Clap, but no Symptom appeared, nevertheless he went to the very wise Practitioner in the Cure of this Disorder, who lives in *Blue-Cross-Street, Leicester-Fields*, by whom he was told that he was infected, and it was an Infection of the * black Nature, he therefore had Medicines of course; but one Evening as he was going home from his Doctor, unluckily he fell down and bruised his Knee, which before the next Evening was much swelled; accordingly the Doctor was consulted, (without being informed of the Fall he had received the preceding Night) who on a thorough Examination, pronounced it a Venereal Swelling, and proposed his taking Pills for some Time, that he might intirely root it out. I really laughed heartily on hearing the Account, and the young Gentleman seemed highly pleased,

* What this Man could mean by an Infection of the Black Nature, I confess I am ignorant, **only** with his Practice no blacker than the Disease.

pleased, that he had so well experienced his Doctor's Judgment, and was much more so when I assured him he had no Venereal Symptoms, nor had he been the least injured (except in the Mind) only by taking the Ignoramus's Medicines, which had reduced him in Flesh.

I have now given a few Instances of the Ignorance and Villainy of these People; a Subject I always thought below my Pen; and it is with some Reluctance I submit it to the Public Eye; but my Intentions are not to please the Critic, but to serve my Fellow-creatures; which I found I could no ways thoroughly accomplish, without giving some Precautions that may serve as Beacons to the unthinking, and prevent their splitting on those fatal Rocks.

Therefore I shall end this Subject with only a few Hints (more particularly) respecting such Persons or Companies, as they simply stile themselves, who endeavour to impose on the Public, and at the same Time hide their Persons. These Kind of Wretches ought to be shunned as the Fire
of

of Death : In short, nothing can equal the Folly of those who risque their Health, by taking published Medicines, where the authors are not known. Indeed, I have the more Reason to speak, as I have many Instances where such credulous Persons have had woeful Causes to repent it. The Motives for Authors concealing themselves, can never bear examining, which is often done under a Title of a Company of Physicians, Surgeons, &c. But this is now become too common a cheat, and easily seen thro'. Was there ever a Physician or Surgeon ashamed of his Profession? Or is any honest Man afraid of his Practice being publicly known? On the contrary, every Practitioner is endeavouring rather to extend the Knowledge of it. In a word, I don't believe any Gentleman, regularly educated in Physic, would be concerned in such Combinations : I say, I don't believe, for I have great Reason, having been informed these Companies consist chiefly of the lowest Mechanics ; which Informations I have also Reason to believe to be just, by examining their Treatment of Patients, who, as I before observed, have been

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afterwards under my Care. I conceive, every Practitioner is accountable (by the Laws of his Country) for the Effects of his Medicine, in Cases where fatal Consequences ensue : but a set of Men, under such Colours, Practice, sell their Medicines, right or wrong, and defy the Consequences ; or in other Words, stab their Fellow-creatures in the Dark, without risking their Persons or Reputations.

That this Discourse may still be attended with more Benefit to the Public, (by which if I should prove the Means of saving one of my Fellow-creatures from the Destruction that generally follows their Credulity, I am amply rewarded) I shall now take some Notice of a few particular published Medicines for the Cure of Venereal Infections, where the Authors are known : 1st. *Keyser's* Pills have been strongly recommended in the Pamphlet published for that Purpose, which gives an Account of their good Effects in a Number of Cases at *Paris*. The Author, Mr. *Keyser*, seems to confine the Cases to confirmed Poxes ; whether he proposed

posed their being given on every Occasion, such as slight Claps, &c. I do not pretend to determine ; but be this as it will, I think they are the best Preparation of Mercury offered to the Public, because they are the mildest ; nevertheless, they, as well as all other Preparations, where the Patient is not purged, certainly occasion a sore Mouth and Gums ; and if continued, a Spitting, with other Symptoms of a Salivation.

This Mr. *Keyser* confesses; for in his printed Directions he orders them to be continued till the Mouth is affected, then to suspend their Use till that Effect is removed by Purges, which are to be repeated more or less Times, according to the Obstinacy of the Complaint.

Mr. *Watben*, Surgeon, in his late Publication, is of Opinion, *Keyser's* Pills are more slow, uncertain and dangerous, (as a general Medicine) than any of the common mercurial Preparations to be met with in every Dispensatory ; to confirm which he quotes the Author of the *Parallele des Differentes*

Methodes de traiter la Maladie Vénériene, who has asserted to the same Effect. By these Gentlemen we are told they are dangerous; what then must be the strong and rough Preparations continually published? some of which come next under my Consideration.

2d. *Hawksbee's Pills* are a Medicine I by no Means approve of; they are prepared from Mercury, and are much stronger than the former, therefore more pernicious; that they are a Preparation of Mercury, I am certain (though it is simply denied in the Advertisements since the Death of the Author, who always administered them as such) from their Effects; a recent Instance of which I had as follows: a Person applied to me, who had a Clap on him that had been contracted a Week before, in which Time he had been taking *Hawksbee's Pills*; they had brought on a Spitting, with a violent swelled Face; and in short, every Symptom of an approaching Salivation: by these Means, as indeed is always the Case, where such Remedies are given, every Complaint
was

was increased, particularly the Cordee, by the violent Inflammation of the Parts, through the Heat in the Blood, occasioned by the Mercury.

I immediately ordered a thin, cooling Regimen, and purged him every second or third Day, with Manna and Salts, till the Effect of the Mercury was pretty well gone ; in which Time, indeed, the Disorder was nearly subdued : I then gave my Medicine for a Week, and dismissed him well ; and, to use his own Words, “ A severe Penance he had for his Folly.” I am not ignorant, that a few Years since, these Pills were in great Reputation for curing this Disease : For my Part, I don’t know what use they might be of in some Degrees of a Pox, when administered under the Care of the Author ; but as to a Clap, instead of Use, they are of infinite Mischief.

Belloste’s Pills have much the same Effect as these.

A vile Preparation of Mercury, in the Form of Pills, is advertised by the Name of *Leake's Antivenereal Pills*, sold at the Author's House in *St. Bride's-lane, Fleet-street*; the Effects of this Medicine are so injurious, base and cruel to the Human Constitution, that a rational Person would imagine it was invented by a Man-hater, with an Intent to destroy the whole Race — By the taking these Pills, how frequently have I seen strong robust young Men, reduced to so low, and miserable a State, that they have appeared exactly like those just recovered from long and severe Illnesses, the whole Frame being wrecked to Pieces; and all this shall be brought about within three Weeks Time.

They operate sometimes by Stool, at other Times, Vomit; if these Effects don't happen, they generally salivate. But what is more dreadful, because more deluding, is, that these Pills may be taken for some considerable Time, in many Constitutions, particularly such as are healthy and strong, and they shall find no apparent Effect; yet all this Time the Constitution is on the wreck,
their

their Health, Strength and Spirits gradually giving way, till the whole Body appears as before observed; and in this deplorable Situation have they applied to me, with the Complaint, which, on their first taking these Pills, was only a slight fresh Infection, now shew'd certain Symptoms of a confirmed Pox, and they in so weak a State as to be hardly able to walk. A Gentleman, a Patient of mine, by taking three Boxes of *Leake's* Pills, is brought into a consumptive State, and has Lodgings five Miles from Town at this Time, applying closely to a Regimen and Exercise proper for such as are in a Decline. What I have said of this Medicine has occurred to me in Practice from Time to Time.

A well known advertised Medicine, ~~are~~ the Drops, called by the Name of Jesuit's Drops, as if invented by some Jesuit of great Knowledge in Medicine. This supposed Jesuit must be a very good natured communicative Man, to disclose the grand Secret to so many Persons; as I do assert, those advertised by the Successors of one *Walker*,
who

who was a Printer in the *Old Baily* ; those by *Rock* on *Ludgate-hill* ; those by a Company of Surgeons, call'd *Montpelier Drops*, by *St. Dunstan's Church* ; those called *Peru Drops*, at the royal Dispensatory in *Holborn*, and some others, are one and the same Medicine. These *Jesuits Drops* have been circulated through *Great Britain*, and by their daring and false Advertisements, vast Quantities have been sold, and still continue selling, particularly in the remote Parts of the Country, where their Inefficacy is not yet known ; therefore I will affirm, no Medicine, that was ever advertised in this Nation, has done the like Hurt to our Fellow-creatures. The extensive knowledge of these Drops have been a greater Curse to Mankind, than the Return of an Epidemical Distemper, after certain Numbers of Years, as those that out-live it are afterwards sound ; but a Medicine taken for a Disease, which acts directly opposite to the Intention of a Cure, must leave a Curse to the unhappy Persons, and often Families, from one Generation to another.

Now

Now it may be proper to give some little attention to the Manner of their being recommended to the Public, 1st. then by the Successors of *Walker* the Printer, “ Dr. “ *Rob. Walker’s Patent** genuine and true “ Original Jesuits Drops, having had great “ Success, has induced a Person† to sell a “ vile Composition under the same Name “ and Title. These Drops are a certain, safe, “ and effectual Cure for all Weaknesses in “ both Sexes, as also for all Symptoms of “ the Venereal Disease.”

I would now ask every judicious Man, if any thing can possibly be so absurd ; The very means that must pox the Patient, is to cure him. I confess it has often been a Matter of Astonishment to me, that the Public could be imposed on in this Manner ; as the

* Patents may be had for any Medicine, was it composed of Brickduft and Sand.

† *Rock*, is the person pointed out, who makes use of the same words, viz. that they sell a vile composition by the Name of JESUITS Drops, &c.

very Recommendation is so ridiculous, that a Person with common Reason, without the least Knowledge of Medicine, must laugh at it.

Rocks Advertisment.

“ My Patent genuine and true Original
 “ Jesuits Drops. The great Success that
 “ has attended the taking these Drops has
 “ induced some Persons to sell a vile Com-
 “ position, under the same Name and Title.
 “ My Original Jesuits Drops are a certain
 “ and safe Cure for all Weaknesses in both
 “ Sexes, as also for all Symptoms of the
 “ Venereal Disease.

The other Advertisements run in the same manner, viz. Mountpelier Drops, Peru Drops and others.

The Stupidity of which Cant I have just mentioned ; nevertheless, shall observe, that if the Afflicted would but make the least Reflection, or, (if not acquainted with the Town,) some Enquiry, they would soon
 trace

trace these Kind of People, from their Original, and discover their grand Impositions, and daring Impudence, to thus impose on (and what is worse) destroy the Health of Mankind: Pity it is, that our Legislature has never thought it worthy Notice to inflict a proper Punishment on those baneful Set of Men.

The daring Impudence, and I may justly add, Baseness of these Wretches, who deserve no better Name, is almost incredible. For the Successors of *Walker*, in their printed Directions, order a strong Purging Electuary to be taken with the Drops, not the least relying on them for a Cure; no, on the contrary, seem sensible that the Drops have no Power towards it. *Rock*, in his Book of Directions, orders his Electuary, and says, the Drops are to be taken, if any Weakness remains, after the Infection is gone.

These things plainly shew, that the Proprietors of this simple Medicine, are not unacquainted of its inefficacy in the Cure of the Venereal Disease. Therefore these Men

are the more culpable, as they well know they are robbing the Public, both of their Money and Healths, by far worse Enemies to the Community than Highwayman.

But to return to the subject ; let us now trace this ridiculous Medicine from its grand Origin ; but in doing this, if we adhere to truth, we must not talk of a Jesuit's disclosing the mighty Discovery ; no, that false Story was invented by wicked Men, to delude and cheat their fellow Creatures ; and they have so far succeeded, and have reaped the Benefit of the Fraud and damnable Imposition. But hear, you Cormorants, that have devoured the Vitals of Mankind ; that you also have received in numberless Instances the severe Curses of the fore Afflicted, even on their death Beds.

Therefore let the Proprietors of the Jesuit's Drops (if they have any Shame left) desist from recommending it in Venereal Cases, whatever may be it's good Properties in other Cases.

I think it's now Time to release my Reader from this Subject (as it must be rather disagree-

agreeable to a good Man to hear such things related,) which I shall do by giving the Prescription for making the Jesuit's Drops, it being nothing more than a Tincture taken out of *Quincy's Dispensatory*; and is made as follows :

“ Take Bals. Capivi. ʒj. Gum of Guaia-
 “ cum ʒij. Oil of Sassafras ʒss. Spirit of Wine
 “ rectified ʒv. Digest together with some
 “ small Mixture of Salt of Tarter for two
 “ or three Days, and pour off what is fine
 “ for Use.” The Dose is from 6 to 30, or
 40 Drops, if any Person chuses to try the
 Effect of it. What little Virtue this Medi-
 cine can have is, that of an Astringent; there-
 fore when taken in a Clap as directed, it must
 lessen the Discharge, by which Means the
 Patient will be poxed; or, at other Times,
 the Matter will be translated to the Testicles:
 Of this I have had many Instances. The
 same is observed by Mr. *Watben*, Surgeon,
 in his Notes on this Disease: But let him
 speak for himself. “ I have given a fair
 “ Trial of the advertised Jesuit's Drops,
 “ whose Effects very nearly resemble those
 of

“ of Balsam Capivi; but as administered by
 “ those whose Property it is, generally pro-
 “ duces swelled Testicles, Buboës, and a
 “ confirmed Lues Venerea. Many Patients
 “ who have taken that Medicine, have, at
 “ different Times, applied to me (and I
 “ doubt not others) in such Circumstances.”

After what has been said, it must be evi-
 dent to every unprejudiced Reader, that the
 administering such supposed Remedies,
 must be attended with the most deplorable
 Consequences; for which no Retaliation can
 possibly be made. And as the whole Na-
 tion, has long been shamefully deluded,
 and imposed on by such Means, I think
 every Author who writes on this Disease, is
 very culpable if he does not expose the Stu-
 pidity and Hurt of such vile Medicines.

For my part, had I sufficient Abilities to
 criticise, I would be far from taking Notice
 of Errors, purely, for the sake of shewing
 my Parts or Judgment; nor have I, I hope,
 so much ill-Nature to find fault upon no
 other

other Pretence than to make People uneasy; yet, I think it would be an unpardonable Crime in any Person silently to permit pernicious Practices; for certainly People of our Profession ought to look upon themselves as Servants to the Public; and should study, by all reasonable Means, to promote the common Good, since they are entrusted with whatever is dear to Mankind; it is not enough that they honestly discharge themselves of the Confidence that is put in them; but they should also endeavour to preserve their different Branches from the Tarnish of Craft, Bigotry, Avarice, Superstition, and Ignorance; by taking Reason for their Guide, and judging without Partiality, or Prejudice; and a Man of common Understanding, assisted by Experience, may, and will be as competent a Judge in those Matters as the most refined Genius. There is one Thing in the Knowledge of Physic, I am certain of, and that is, the clearer any one sees into the Nature and Cause of a Disorder, the less perplexed will be his Method of Cure.

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The Lisbon Diet Drink, published by Dr. *Leak*, Professor of Midwifry, is strongly recommended by him for all Veneral Cases. I have made frequent Trials of its Efficacy, and have found it a good Medicine in weak Constitutions, that have before gone through a long Course of Mercurials, but no ways superior in its Effects to the Decoction of Sassa Parilla, nor indeed can any Diet Drink be made to surpass that most deserved celebrated Root.

Mr. *Hales*, Surgeon, in his Pamphlet some time published, intitled, Salivation not necessary in the Cure of the Venereal Disease, recommends his peculiar Method by alterative Pills, Diet Drink, &c.

The Method of Cure (except in very particulars Cases) by Salivation, has long been rejected, and Mercurial Alteratives have taken place in its room; this is known to all Practitioners in common.

He also asserts, that all Gleets are curable: when Mr. *Hales* can convince the public, that

that they are so; there will be some hopes that all Disorders will be found cureable, and that his next Discovery will be a preventive against Death.

C H A P. VIII.

Contains some particular Remarks on different Subjects.

IN the Course of my Practice, I have had an almost incredible Number of Patients afflicted with the different Species of the Venereal Disease, so as to have become even to a Degree of being frightful Sight; others left labouring under Gleets and the worst of Weaknesses and Imbecilities: all these Complaints have been occasioned either by the rough Methods used in the Cure, or by a long Neglect in not applying to proper Persons for a Remedy. Some indeed, the latter Disorders, by a continued debauched Life, or what is still worse, and with pity may it be spoken to Mankind, is that abominable Habit of Self-Pollution. (The Consequence and Cure of which, I shall mention anon.) However, from one, or perhaps all these Causes, they are left in the

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most wretched State, the Genital Parts being totally relaxed, having lost all Power, &c. I now confess, I was not a little perplexed with these Cases, and it was much concern to me that I could not give my Patients the Assistance I would willingly have done. But after some Time, and a Number of fruitless Trials, I at last was so happy as to fix on a Medicine, which I have administered with amazing Success. This Remedy I never intended to have published, contriving it purposely for such Patients as were under my Care; but, finding it so extremely certain in its Effects, imagined it must receive a general Welcome from the Public; and have since found those Imaginations were just. No lucrative View could be a Motive for doing it, (any more than I well knew it would consequently further establish my Reputation in the Cure of all Disorders relative to the Parts appropriated for Generation) As however high the Price may appear in respect to the Quantity, I declare the Preparation is so expensive, that in regard to the Profits arising from the bare Sale only, it would
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be very inconsiderable. This Medicine I have published, under the Title of the *Restorative Remedy, or Cordial Drops*: These Drops are really Nature's Assistant, where she is giving way either from Debauches of different Kinds, or where the Decay is the Consequence of Age: in this Case they are found of infinite Service, as they almost incredibly remove those common Symptoms, which are known to attend approaching old Age, by which Life, though extended to the last Stage, is rendered much more comfortable.

In its Operation, 1st, It is a Cordial, and that of the highest and most singular Nature, by which it circulates the Juices, enlivens the Spirits, and recreates all the Faculties both of the Body and Mind. 2^d, It dissipates all Kinds of Weaknesses and Imbecilities, restoring Strength and Vigour to a decayed Constitution. As it co-operates with Nature, without forcing the Vessels; so it even furnishes Matter, as well as quickens Desires: in short, it never fails to excite conjugal Intercourses where the Con-

stitution by any Misfortunes or Irregularities has fallen into a Coldness, Indifference, or total Inability to those Acts: even *Age* is not exempt from the Assistance of this Remedy, to that Degree, that the most Credulous would scarce credit the Report, and yet this is a Fact confirmed by a great Number of Instances. 3d, It is in the strictest Sense, Nature's Help and Support, by what Means soever injured; acting as real Nourishment as well as a Medical Assistant, by which it warms, comforts and nourishes the whole Vital System; therefore may with the greatest Certainty and Safety be depended on, for having the aforesaid Effects, which are not produced by any stimulating Power, too often the Case of Medicines ignorantly and vilely administered, to provoke Lust; the Consequences of which have proved of fatal Effects; for indeed, is it possible for such Medicines ever to give Power, though sometimes they excite Desires; but even to accomplish that, it requires the greatest Care to fix the Dose, and if often used (which I think none but Mad-men will do) soon destroy all those
 Parts

Parts that it principally acts upon, to give Vigour.

But to return to the Subject : this Medicine has not only given the most incontestible Proofs of being the greatest Restorative in Nature, but has actually removed the attendant Causes on Sterility or Barrenness in one Sex, and Impotence in the other, by recovering the Use of the natural Means for Propagation in the Male, and removing the Cause of Barrenness in the Female. I have received a Number of Letters of Thanks from many Families that have (unexpectedly) found these wonderful Effects. Therefore let no one ridicule what they know not, lest their own Ignorance is by that Means discovered; for, most undoubtedly, nothing is so interesting to Mankind as the recovering the Powers of this Kind, &c. No State being so miserable as a *State* of Inability, respecting conjugal Acts; and on the other Hand, the want of Children, (even where every other Blessing is enjoyed) is an Affliction of a very peculiar Nature, which
none

none but those so circumstanced can possibly judge of; for it's a known Fact, the most severe Reflections in the Marriage State, often take place on that Account. Also, in all Cases where sloughly and cold Humours have clogged the Reins and Genital Parts (which I have found to be the Cause of Impotency in the Male, and Sterility in the Female) Particular in Corpulent Habits, which occasions many other Mischiefs, this Medicine is of great Service, by freeing the Parts from the Obstructions and renewing the Natural Strength.

As I just mentioned the Efficacy of this Remedy in those Complaints brought on by that unnatural Habit of Self-Pollution, I shall now take some Notice of it; and first then as to the Cause or Means of that Act, I imagine few Readers will be Ignorant which way it is accomplished; but those that are, if it is in my Power, shall continue so; for I am of Opinion, that noticing to the World, there are such Things to be heard, seen, or felt, is done always with an Intent to raise the Curiosity

ty, that they may be Partakers of those Events; but a stronger Motive, I fear too often prevails, which is the Informer's private Emolument. But I would be understood to mean particular Circumstances.

I remember, as long ago as the Year 1756, a book was published, called *Onania*; but the Author for Reasons, best known to himself, took care to conceal his Name: This Performance was allowed not only by the Faculty, but by every judicious Person, to be an immodest, ridiculous and scandalous Publication: and I well remember a Gentleman (now in a very considerable Employment) telling me one Evening, as we were talking of it at a Coffee-House, that if it was possible at an Expence of ten Thousand Pounds, he would bring the Author to severe Punishment; and at the same time lamented, that our Laws would not affect him. After a little Pause, he told me the Reason of his high Displeasure, as follows; that the third or fourth Day after this Book

was

was published, he was walking gently up Stairs, but was suddenly alarmed at hearing his two Daughters in a loud Fit of Laughter; he accordingly hastily opened the Door, and saw the eldest with this Book in her Hand, and the other in no very decent Posture. Shocked at these Circumstances, he took the Book from them, with a severe Reprimand; and now declared, once again, he had rather have given half his Fortune (not having been himself since) than such an Affair should have happened. There can be no manner of doubt but a Number of similar Instances have been produced through the Publication of such an obscene, and in short, vile Discourse. Surely the good Man might have published his Remedies for the Relief of Complaints occasioned by Self-Pollution, (which by the bye, though I have known several of the Faculty, as well as myself, who have given all his Medicines a fair Trial, yet could find none of those good Effects he vainly and emptily talks of, without any Reason) without introducing such Letters

as I will venture to affirm where never before seen in print. Nor could they answer any manner of Purpose towards the Cure; the Nature of the Complaints might have been mentioned with all their dangerous Consequences, and a Method of Cure pointed out; and then again the supposed Original Letters (which a Child would discern are all wrote by himself; I mean this concealed Author,) are so low and ridiculous, that no Person of common Understanding, would suffer it to be in his possession.

Therefore to return to the Subject; I shall just mention those common Symptoms which are occasioned by that Habit of Self-Pollution. 1st. The Person becomes feeble, has frequent Pains in his Head and Back, also in the Groin and Testicles; the Seminal Vessels by being strained, soon become relaxed; the Seed coming away with little or no Provocation, or even on using much Exercise, and sometimes on going to stool. 2d. To these may be added, that the Afflicted has

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feldom any Erection of the Penis, but when he has, it is of very short Duration, and even then very weak, so as not to answer the Intentions of Nature. 3d. After these Symptoms, or others of the like Nature, have continued some Time, they frequently bring on a Hectic State, which ends in a total Decline.

It is true there are a number more Complaints occasioned by the above Practice; but these are enough to inform the Patient of the Cause, where he knows himself guilty; and as to others, it could be of no Use if five hundred were named. Now as to a Remedy, I sincerely aver the *Restorative Drops* (before mentioned) have succeeded in almost all these Cases where a fair Trial has been given; and would the Nature of the Complaints allow of it, could refer any Person to a Number, who either by Person or Letter have declared themselves absolutely recovered, (but give me leave to observe, that except the grand Cause is entirely abstained from, this, nor any.

any other Remedy, will ever effect a Cure) but where it has in some Measure failed, or the Person's Patience did not well hold out, I have assisted its Efforts by adding other Medicines, which in some Constitutions has been done with Advantage. In short, honestly speaking, I have had no Instances but where I have given great Relief, and indeed very few but where I have thoroughly recovered them.

C H A P. IX.

CAREFUL Observations of the Success and Miscarriages attending an extensive Practice, are certainly the only Means of arriving at any Degree of Certainty, in the curative Part of Physic; and a rational Theory, accompanied by the Knowledge thus acquired, must make the System of Medicine the most Perfect and Valuable. A Practitioner, without Theory, not understanding the Laws of the Animal Oeconomy, must be a Stranger to the Changes introduced into the Constitution

by Diseases : and is neither able to form a Method of Cure ; neither can he account for the Operation of his Remedies, or to what End they were prescribed. And the Theorist, for want of Practice to confirm his Speculations, will be often perplexed, and go astray : for tho' he can project a methodical Scheme of Cure, according to the Forms and Rules laid down by Authors, yet its Success can only be warranted from Experience. But Theory when united to Practice, makes him acquainted with a Set of Medicines that can be relied on, and also enables him to discover the Nature and the Cause, and to comprehend the Symptoms and Events of Diseases with Perspicuity and Judgment.

Where these Matters have been properly attended to, great Discoveries in the Medical Art have been made: and I make no doubt but that many more have never been publickly known, owing to the Author's Fear of being branded with the Name of Quack, or Secret Hunter, and one that is endeavouring to impose on Mankind.

Mankind. Alas! to what a low Ebb must the noblest of all Arts be sunk! that Art, which was handed down from God himself, labouring under this abominable Bondage, that the regular Practitioner, who has been instructed in his Profession at a large Expence, joined to a long Series of Years taken up in Application and Study, gone through with much Pains and Labour—should be after all obliged to confine himself to the general Opinion of other Men, (many of whom, Pack-Horse like, travel on in the common Path, though attended with much Difficulty, and often to the greatest Prejudice to Mankind) or suffer the before-mentioned Reproach. And why all this? I could never see any other Reasons than because a Number of illiterate ignorant Fellows tell the World they have Medicines that will cure this or that Disorder, which we all know is in the Power of every Shoe-black to affirm, therefore (according to the too often, and I may add simply received Opinion) it must follow that every Person though ever so well accomplished, must (by capricious Cavillers

and ignorant Churls) in some Degree be loaded with vile Insinuations : but it may be worth Notice, that this generally comes from evil Minds, who are always much affected to see another more eminently useful than themselves. It is well known to the Gentlemen of the Faculty, that many Improvements and Discoveries have been made in Surgery, not only in the Treatment of Wounds, and the reducing of Fractures and Dislocations, but in the most capital Operations, that those which were a Century ago performed with much Difficulty and Danger, are now accomplished in half the Time with greater ease, and much less Risk to the Patient's Life. Respecting Physic, they have been no less successful in discovering the most valuable Remedies. Many have been known to the world, and I fear the before-mentioned Reasons may have prevented others from being made known ; but tho' the Gentlemen who may have invented such Medicines, have administered them in private Practice, yet they cannot be attended with that general Service as if made Public : and for my Part, I
could

could never see the Impropriety of acquainting Mankind that I had a peculiar Remedy for this, or that Disorder : nor can I conceive any Difference between giving this Information by Advertisement, or in a Book; which Book is recommended by Advertisement; surely this is one and the same Thing. And yet, that this is frequently done by the greatest Authors, is a known Fact : for in Books some quite conceal their Methods, and others deliver them in such an obscure Manner that they confine the Practice to themselves. Let me further ask, is not this the grand Motive of all Publications? And if Reason is on their side, especially should it be crown'd by Experience, the Person is of great use to the Public, which I am certain is always desirous that Merit should be rewarded. However, from what I have now said, I would not have it thought that I am speaking on my own Account; for I declare it is a Matter of Indifference to me, whether I ever have another Advertisement inserted, merely respecting Medicines; but I hope, I have as much right as other Authors to publish my Works.

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Nevertheless, I must advance, that it is my Opinion, where Medical Discoveries are made, founded on Reason and Experience, and the Authors publickly known to be Men of conduct and judgment in their Profession, they must be the more beneficial, as they are the more known to the World. But then it may be answered, what has a News-Paper to do with them ; a valuable Remedy will make itself known, particularly when assisted by the Circle of an Acquaintance ? But however plausible this may seem, I must beg leave to say, let any thing appear new, no Matter how good the Invention, yet there will immediately rise up crouds of strong Opponents, many of which I fear find fault, not through the best of Motives ; others do it for want of taking Reason for their Guide ; or they are Bigots to their own Ways, long ingrafted in them, and therefore endeavour to find Faults where there are none, merely for the sake of doing so, or to appear Men of Parts. And Lastly, Another Sort may blame the Authors, because they want Sense to judge of the Goodness of the Remedy,

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and the Nature of the Disease. The same has been observed by the greatest of Men, as you will see by the following Quotation.

An antient, but valuable Author says,
 “ Although my new Method may seem
 “ strange to some, it can be only to such as
 “ believe that no-body knows more than
 “ themselves ; who think, that the Univer-
 “ sality of all Learning is locked up within
 “ their Microcosm ; and that if they be
 “ ignorant of it, so must all the rest of the
 “ World besides : such there are in the
 “ World, and from such I can expect no-
 “ thing but Slander and Calumny : But
 “ the best is, it is not my Portion alone ;
 “ therein I am a Companion for the best
 “ of Men. It was always the Fate of the
 “ first Authors of any Invention (though
 “ never so good) to meet with Opprobry
 “ and Contempt ; and I know no Reason
 “ why I alone should be exempt from the
 “ common Destiny, or general Fate. Those
 “ Persons are such as envy Glory to all ex-
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“ cept themselves; and generally their Ma-
 “ lice arises (not from the Matter invented,
 “ for that they greedily covet but) because
 “ of the Person inventing; and as they
 “ were not the Original of it, or cannot
 “ obtain the Glory, therefore it is either
 “ false, incongruous, unnecessary or im-
 “ possible; or if the Matter be too laud-
 “ able to be branded with such Epithets,
 “ the Fate of that great and worthy Man,
 “ Dr. *Hervey*, about the Circulation of the
 “ Blood, is unavoidable, viz. that it is an
 “ old Thing, they knew as much before,
 “ *Hypocrates* and *Galen* found it out, it is
 “ in such a Book, such a Chapter, such an
 “ Aphorism; although the Words by them
 “ there cited, contain no more a Discovery
 “ of the Thing in dispute, (though strained
 “ by all the Tropes and Figures of Rheto-
 “ ric) than the Alcoran does of the Bible.”

Dr. *Cockburn* observes, (speaking of the
 Reproach every Person is subject to that
 offers a new Discovery to the World)

“ Dis-

“ Discoveries are most commonly attend-
 “ ed with the Murmurings and Reproaches
 “ of envious People ; who load Inventors
 “ with Calumny, instead of returning
 “ them Thanks: Indeed, the great Occa-
 “ sion of Scandal is the Goodness of the In-
 “ vention ; and that it may bring a Repu-
 “ tation to its Author : So dangerous it is
 “ for a Physician to contrive any Thing
 “ useful to Mankind, that it unavoidably
 “ subjects him to the Hatred of many others
 “ of his Brethren, who restlessly pursue
 “ him with Calumny and Scandal, if not
 “ the Invention itself.

I shall next give you the Opinion of two
 eminent *French* Physicians, who were re-
 vered for their Knowledge in their Professi-
 on, not only in their own Country but
 through all *Europe*.

Dr. *Boudin* writes thus:

“ I always looked upon two Things as
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“ the principal Obstacles to the Progress of
 “ Physic ; the one is the general Fondness
 “ Men have for Systems, which oblige
 “ young Physicians to spend a great deal of
 “ Time, that might be better bestowed in
 “ making useful Observations, and fill their
 “ Imaginations with well contrived Fables--
 “ but of no use towards the Cure of their
 “ Patients, which ought to be the chief
 “ and only End of all their Studies and
 “ Labours ; the other is not only their
 “ Neglect of, but likewise their Dislike and
 “ Repugnance both to the Search of new
 “ Remedies, and to the Application to them
 “ in their Practices, whenever they have
 “ been discovered by others more courage-
 “ ous and diligent than they.—*Hippocrates*
 “ has rejected all Systems as useless, that
 “ he might the better apply himself to
 “ Observations, and the Study of proper
 “ Medicines.”

Dr. *Chirac*, says, “ The Cure of the
 “ Venereal Disease is liable to so many In-
 “ conveniences

“ conveniences from the insufficiency of the
 “ greatest Part of those who undertake
 “ it, and by Reason of the grievous Suffer-
 “ ings they expose their Patients to, who
 “ follow their old Method of curing ; as
 “ also because the Time it requires to per-
 “ form it is so long, and a Patient with-
 “ drawing himself for the Space of Forty
 “ or Fifty Days, during which Time he
 “ must keep his Chamber, is so trouble-
 “ some, and often so suspicious, especially
 “ for Persons whose Station obliges them
 “ to have a more than ordinary Regard for
 “ their Reputation, that we never can suf-
 “ ficiently applaud those, who have spent
 “ their Time and Labour in the Discovery
 “ and Improvement of such Remedies
 “ as can thoroughly cure those, who are af-
 “ flicted with it, and free them from all the
 “ Inconveniences and Disorder that attend
 “ the ordinary Way of curing it.”

That the many Arguments made use
 of against advertised Medicines in general,
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are not only in a great measure founded on Reason but on Justice also, which is due to the Public, every honest and rational Man must allow; and at the same Time agree to the general Opinion, that great Hurt has attended their Administration, either through the vileness of the Composition, by being of too much strength, or too little, and probably not at all adapted to the Disorder; either way the Patient must be a Sacrifice. This being consented to, let us take a closer View into the Matter, and I am of opinion we shall discover two principal Causes of the Danger of taking, or applying advertised Medicines: First, then, did but our Laws severely punish such Persons as should dare presume (not only to practice) but to publish, or even privately give, or cause to be given, any Drug or Medicine (where other Assistance could be had) without first having been regularly educated to Physic or Surgery, you would at once suppress more than half the Medicinal Advertisements; by which his Majesty in all probability would with-
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in a few Years, save the Lives of some Thousands of his Subjects ; therefore I hope it could not be thought a Breach of Privilege, except indeed by the Shop-keepers, who within these few Years are become Dealers in Medicine, selling and bartering the Healths and Lives of their fellow Creatures, with as much Effrontry as their fore Fathers did their different kinds of Wares. To these published Medicines, you have no known Author, except you believe it to be a Physician of great eminence, because they say so ; this therefore introduces the second Cause, i. e. you not knowing the Inventor ; what if the greatest Hurt happens from the taking such Medicines, where is the Redress ? therefore always remember to be circumspect in a Matter of so much Consequence to your future Happiness ; and I know of no way to be safe, but totally rejecting such supposed Remedies : But where the Authors are known, and have given Testimonials of the Goodness of their different Discoveries in Medicine, and if applied to, appear judicious

ous Men, (or after their decease, should the Medicines be offered to the public) surely we may with safety rely on them : if the Difference may with propriety be compared to this :--for a Person goes into a Chymist's Shop, and seeing a Quantity of Drugs laying on the Counter, takes up a Handful, of which he makes a Medicine (but we are not to suppose any of the poisonous Kind amongst them) to cure himself of this or that Complaint ; another Person goes to his Physician, and gets his Prescription. The first runs the greatest hazard of losing his Life with no chance of Benefit ; the latter is quite safe, and will have great hopes of a Recovery.

All these things are very well known, but, alas, too little attended to. One Observation more finishes these Remarks ; i. e. no Man will refuse standing forth as a Champion for his Practice and Medicines, provided he can make his Assertion appear just, well knowing this will certainly greatly prove to Advantage,

Advantage, as then the public can with safety and without fear try their Medicines; for instance; is any one afraid to take Dr. *James's*, Dr. *Hill's*, Dr. *Redmond's*, Dr. * *Leak's*, or Dr. *Ingram's* published Medicines? These Gentlemen are known to be regularly educated, and the Public are safe in their Hands. Therefore no Person can deny, but many Medicines published (when under the before-mentioned regulations) have been of great use and benefit to Mankind; but to further enumerate on them would be taking up room to little purpose.

As to the Venereal Disease, which is the Subject of this *Essay*, I must observe, there is a peculiar Advantage that attends the Cure of it, which is this; That as it always proceeds from one and the same Cause, (only differently seated) so may it be cured by one and the same Remedy. I speak as to the Venereal Poison; for if any Weakness remains after that is expelled, Corroborants take Place of course. There is

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* Dr. *Leak*, of *Craven Street, Strand*, (professor of Midwifry) it is to be understood, is meant; not the Person who advertises the Pills, taken notice of in the *Essay*, and who is also remarked by Dr. *Leak*, in his Advertisement.

(122)

Reason to suppose many of the Faculty in this Metropolis must have found out some favourite Medicine, which they in their Practice chiefly rely on for particular Disorders, and is what remains a Nostrum or Secret in their own Breast, which (provided the Medicine is a valuable one) is like putting the lighted Candle under a Bushel, as it is confined to the narrow Bounds of their Practice.

Scire tuum nihil est nisi te scire hoc sciat Alter.

PERS.

A Man's Knowledge is worth nothing without he communicates it to the World; for Science is not Science till revealed.

But to proceed; I am therefore of the Opinion that every Person who has Invented any Remedy that may be serviceable to his Fellow-creatures, cannot discharge his Duty either to God or them, if he does not either discover the Medicine, or offer it for their good, which must tend to his own Emolument.

If it is empirical Practice to inform the World you have a new Method, or a new Medicine for such and such Complaints,
then

then half the greatest Authors that ever wrote, are Empiricks. But for Brevity's Sake, shall only mention two Moderns.

Mr. *James Handley*, Surgeon, informs us of a Nostrum or Secret he was possessed of, which cured the Rheumatism in a very remarkable Manner, but does not declare the Remedy. These are his own Words, ' In the Rheumatism, particularly, I can, ' and frequently in my Practice do, give a ' certain Medicine which so encounters the ' Disease, and assists Nature, that with Pur- ' ging once or twice, at most, and Bleed- ' ing but once, and sometimes neither of ' them, the Patient, though he cannot stand ' nor feed himself, and used to lay by for it ' twelve or sixteen Weeks together, yet shall ' be able in a Week, ten Days, or a Fort- ' night at most, and sometimes in less Time, ' to go about his Business: the swelling of ' his Joints, and Pain, being gone clear ' off: or if it sometimes happens that the ' Tumours do not go immediately away, ' yet the Pain shall vanish, and the Patient ' be at ease; and all this by the Power of

‘ an Alterative, and without any Mercurial
 ‘ Preparations whatever ; and the Medicine
 ‘ to be taken, is but the Quantity of two
 ‘ Spoonfuls twice a Day.’

However extraordinary the Effects of this Medicine may appear, the Author's Character and Abilities in his Profession, put it out of the Power of censorious Persons to hurt or depreciate his Assertions. This Gentleman, as an Author, was in the greatest Esteem; he wrote his Mechanical Essays on the Animal Oeconomy, *A. D.* 1721. A Book that acquired the greatest Applause. In the Year 1733, he published his *Colloquia Chirurgica*, or the Art of Surgery : this Book was found no less acceptable, being a Work calculated for young Surgeons. After giving such Proofs of his superior Knowledge in his Profession, I suppose he won't be called a Quack, because he recommends a Medicine for the Rheumatism, which he had proved to do more than any other had done.

Dr.

Dr. *Robertson* observes, treating on Fluxes, after recommending some Remedies, ‘ But in Case all these Medicines fail of Success, and the Flux still continues to afflict the Patient, and threaten him with imminent Death, is there no other Hopes, no Anchor whereon the unhappy Patient may repose his Distress, no Specific that may give respite to his Dolors ? Yes ; we are told by Dr. *Cockburn*, in his Treatise on Fluxes, that he enjoys the Favour of a Specific that will cure all Manner of Fluxes, under the most distracting Symptoms. But no Distress of Mankind could ever yet prevail with that Gentleman to open his tender Heart, and discover his Secret to the World.’ And he might have added, that the Public was also debarred the Use of this excellent Remedy by not knowing where to apply for it, which undoubtedly was attended with the same ill Consequences.

It is a Misfortune, and what is peculiar to this Nation, that it is impossible to offer
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the least Discovery, or indeed an Improvement, without immediately meeting with the strongest Oppositions. And it is now become so fashionable, that these kind of Opponents, may say with the Poet,

———*Video meliora proboque
Deteriora Sequor.*

OVID.

*I see the Right, and I approve it too ;
Condemn the Wrong, and yet the Wrong pursue.*

Such Persons as have been properly educated to Physic, and have continually a Number of Patients under their Care, (more particularly when chiefly confined to one Disorder) must either sleep away their Time, or be Men of no kind of Reflection, or consequently will make such Discoveries as will redound to their Reputation and the Public Good.

We see in the Medical Observations and Inquiries, by a Body of Physicians in *London*

don, a Number of well authenticated Discoveries, transmitted to them from different Parts of the World. The hearing of which to all good Men gives the greatest Joy and pleasing Satisfaction; but from bad Men, where that gnawing Worm of Envy is kept alive, nothing can be expected but Hatred, Malice, and the worst of Reflections. I now conclude this *Essay*; and let my Brethren of the Profession; let the sensible Man, or Critic; let those that are diseased, or not diseased; let the Just or Unjust; in one Word, let the whole World peruse this Discourse, and I solemnly declare I can convey my Motive for this Publication, with the strictest Truth, by these Words,

Mens sibi conscia recti.

A good Intention.

F I N I S.

and
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don,